



THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

session one

The Mission of God

Deeper in Christ. Further in Mission. Together.



ECC THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP — SESSION ONE

**Membership is a commitment
to grow deeper in Christ
and go further in mission
together as the church.**

Gather

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP: DEEPER IN CHRIST. FURTHER IN MISSION. TOGETHER. IS TO:

- Take an in-depth look at our congregation
- Underscore our commitment to God's mission in the world
- Introduce our denominational family
- Build and deepen friendships
- Explore what it means to be a member
- Outline the process to become a member

Format of *The Meaning of Membership*

Four topics:

- The mission of God
- The mission of the Evangelical Covenant Church
- The mission of our church
- The mission of a member

Objectives for this Session

- Provide an overview of the work of God in the world
- Introduce, build, and deepen relationships
- Explore the story of God's mission to you and God's mission through you
- Begin the process of discovering membership at our church

ONE-ON-ONE INTRODUCTIONS

1. How did you begin attending our church?
2. What is one question you would like to see answered during our time together?

GOD'S STORY: GOD'S MISSION TO YOU

The four chapters of God's story reveal God's mission to us:

1. Creation (GENESIS 1-2).

- "God is love" (JOHN 4:16).
- "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (GENESIS 1:31).

2. Fall (GENESIS 3).

- "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (ROMANS 3:23).
- "For the wages of sin is death" (ROMANS 6:23).

3. Redemption (GENESIS 3 - REVELATION 20).

- "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (JOHN 3:16).
- "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 JOHN 4:10).
- "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (MATTHEW 28:19).

4. New Creation (REVELATION 21-22). "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away'" (REVELATION 21:3-4).

REFLECTION

1. How have you experienced the goodness of creation and the brokenness of creation?
2. How have you already experienced God's redeeming love through the church?
3. How does God's mission of restoration give you hope for people and our planet?
4. How might God be calling you to respond to his story?

THE X-FACTOR



God's mission extends to you, but it extends beyond you as well. God's mission has a ripple effect! **Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 and Matthew 28:16-20.**

GOING DEEPER IN CHRIST AND FURTHER IN MISSION TOGETHER

In the Evangelical Covenant Church, we are characterized by four distinctives by which we go deeper in Christ and further in mission together. As a denominational family, we are **biblical, devotional, connectional,** and **missional.** These four characteristics are commitments that outline how we can participate in God's mission to us and through us.

Consider which practices you will commit to in order to lean in more fully to the transforming work of the Spirit, so that we would grow deeper in Christ and further in mission together.

- **Biblical**—Growing in our knowledge of God through our engagement with Scripture. *How is God's word influencing your life?*
- **Devotional**—When we open God's word it isn't just to learn about God, but rather to be in relationship with God through the work of the Spirit. *What spiritual practices help you go deeper in Christ in this season of your life?*
- **Connectional**—We are created for relationship with God and one another. We are connectional people. We are all the church together—children, youth, adults, women and men, persons of all ethnicities, nationalities, social standing and ability. All are invited and called by God to be the church. *How will you embrace being better together within your local church? How will you go deeper in Christ and further in mission together?*
- **Missional**—The church exists for God's mission. As missional people we are called to be about God's priorities in the world in both word and deed, reaching the lost and helping the hurting. We are called to share the love of God and to grow the family of God by becoming disciples who make disciples. *What is your next step in going further in mission with God?*



The Evangelical Covenant Church

MAKE & DEEPEN DISCIPLES

The purpose of *The Meaning of Membership: Deeper in Christ. Further in Mission. Together.* resource is to identify what it means for individuals to become members of an Evangelical Covenant Church. Membership is a commitment to grow deeper in Christ and further in mission together.

***The Meaning of Membership* covers:**

SESSION ONE: The Mission of God

SESSION TWO: The Mission of the Evangelical Covenant Church

SESSION THREE: The Mission of Our Church

SESSION FOUR: The Mission of a Member

It is our prayer that together we will grow deeper in Christ and further in mission. Thank you for taking the time to explore what it means to be a part of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

CovChurch.org/Membership