



First Presbyterian

200 E. Beardsley Ave.
Elkhart, IN 46514

Church Membership

The incarnation of God in the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives to the church its understanding of membership. One becomes an active member of the church through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and acceptance of his Lordship in all of life. Baptism and a public profession of faith are the visible signs of entrance into the active membership of the church. We welcome all who respond in trust and obedience to God's grace in Jesus Christ.

Requirements for Membership:

Although the Presbyterian denomination has a rich and complex theological tradition, it is not necessary to agree to particular doctrines to join. It is necessary only to be baptized and to affirmatively answer these questions:

- *Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?*
- *Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in His grace and love?*
- *Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying His Word and showing His love?*
- *Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?*

No one will be denied membership because of race, ethnic origin, worldly condition, sexual orientation, or any other reason unrelated to faith

Process for Membership:

If you desire to join this church, please contact one of the pastors, or indicate in attendance pads in the pews on Sunday morning. The pastors periodically schedule Exploring Membership classes, often on a Sunday afternoon or a weekday evening (according to the schedules of the participants). Attending the classes does not obligate one to join, but is a good way to explore how church membership fits in your faith journey.

You may join First Presbyterian in one of several ways:

1. If you have not been baptized, you would join by **baptism & profession of faith**.
2. If you have been baptized but have never been confirmed or joined a church (i.e. have never publicly professed your faith in Jesus Christ in a church) you would join by **profession of faith**.
3. If you have at one time been a member of a church but are not currently on any church's active membership rolls, or if you are a member of a church which does not provide letters of transfer, you would join by **reaffirmation of faith**.
4. If you are currently on the membership rolls of a church which provides letters of transfer, you would join by **letter of transfer**.