

What does it mean to be a “member” of a church?

We welcome anyone, member or visitor, to participate in the worship, programs, and mission of our church. All are welcome! Becoming a member is a sign of commitment to a particular community of faith at this point in your life. It also means that you can vote in congregational meetings and potentially serve as a church officer (elder or deacon) in the future.

Becoming a member affirms that we don't live the Christian life alone. We are invited to be a part of a community where we can grow, learn, praise, share, serve, give our gifts, and care for others while also receiving care ourselves. It can also reflect a personal affirmation of wanting to follow Jesus in your daily life here and now and wanting the support of a faith community as you do so.

To make Sardis your official church home and become a member the only thing required is to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Folks typically join by one of the following ways:

- Transferring their membership from another congregation
- Profession of faith*
- Reaffirmation of faith*
- Baptism and Profession of Faith (if you have not been baptized previously).

Other common questions:

Can I become a member if the rest of my family is not ready to join? Of course!

***What is involved in a profession or reaffirmation of faith?** Here are the questions asked to those joining the church:

Q: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

A: I do.

Q: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

A: I do.

Q: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

A: I will, with God's help.

Q: 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?

A: I will, with God's help.

Do I need to know everything about the Bible or Presbyterian beliefs to be a member? Not at all! Most often, people find a church community in which they find belonging and connection, they engage in worship and activities and possibly become members because they are interested

in exploring faith in that particular community. Whether we are a “new” member or have been a member of the church for years, we continue to learn and form beliefs and we figure out together in community how we can live out these beliefs in the world today.

Can I participate in Communion? Yes! When the bread and cup is shared and we say, “All are welcome,” we mean it. Communion is a sign and symbol of God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. Children and adults are welcomed to participate in this joyful celebration because it is through experiencing God’s abundant grace that we come to know it more deeply and are equipped to share it.

What about my children?

We welcome all ages of your family to participate with you here at Sardis. If your children have not been baptized previously and you are interested in learning more about what Baptism means or scheduling their baptism date just let a pastor know. If your children are teenagers, we offer a program for 8th graders and high schoolers called Confirmation where young people learn alongside their peers and adult mentors about the essential beliefs of our Presbyterian (U.S.A.) tradition. During this time, teens are encouraged to consider what questions and beliefs they hold today and how they want to be a part of the church and living the Christian life in the world.

I’m interested in becoming a member at Sardis. Now what do I do?

1. Notify Rev. Dr. Allysen Schaaf know if you are interested in becoming a member.
2. Fill out these two forms: [Membership Information](#) and [Member Engagement Form](#). Both of these forms can be found at Sardis.org under the Connect tab.
3. Schedule a day/time when you can be present to meet with the pastors and Session of the church (church member leadership team). You will introduce yourself, share why you are interested in being a member at Sardis and affirm/reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ. Then you are officially welcomed as a member of Sardis! The church leaders will be so glad to welcome you into the Sardis family officially!

Questions?

Want to set up a meeting to chat or grab coffee?

Contact Rev. Dr. Allysen Schaaf at allysen.schaaf@sardis.org