

Communicant membership vow #5

Last weeks: Proto-Presbyterians → Presbyterians (1560) → American Presbyterians (1789) → Orthodox Presbyterians (straight teaching via elders) (1936) → Grace OPC (1971)

Communicant church membership process

Review → Interview → Take vows publicly (profession of faith)

1. God's revelation

Do you believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the Word of God, and its doctrine of salvation to be the perfect and only true doctrine of salvation?

2 Peter 1:16–21 2 Timothy 3:16–17 Luke 24:25–32

2. God's revelation of himself

Do you believe in one living and true God, in whom eternally there are three distinct persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—who are the same in being and equal in power and glory, and that Jesus Christ is God the Son, come in the flesh?

John 14:6 Acts 4:12 Matthew 28:18–20

3. God's revelation of good news

Do you confess that because of your sinfulness you abhor and humble yourself before God, that you repent of your sin, and that you trust for salvation not in yourself but in Jesus Christ alone?

Romans 3:23 Matthew 22:37–40 Romans 6:23

4. God's revelation of his King

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your sovereign Lord, and do you promise that, in reliance on the grace of God, you will serve him with all that is in you, forsake the world, resist the devil, put to death your sinful deeds and desires, and lead a godly life?

John 14:15 Matthew 10:38–39 Luke 14:33

5. God's revelation of his kingdom

Do you promise to participate faithfully in this church's worship and service, to submit in the Lord to its government, and to heed its discipline, even in case you should be found delinquent in doctrine or life?

Matthew 18:15–20 1 Peter 5:1–4 Hebrews 13:17

Faith → works = progression within vows

Deep dive into vow #5: The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ

Participate faithfully in this church

- Participate faithfully
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12–31
 - Church officers correspond to coaches. You're the team!
- In this church
 - The Orthodox Presbyterian Church, established 1936 (lessons 1–3)
 - Grace OPC, established 1971 (lesson 3)

Worship and serve in this church

- Worship
 - “Ascribing worth” to God
 - What we're made to do as image-bearers of God
 - The positive response to the first four commandments
 - Entire Christian life (Romans 12:1–2), personal (the Psalms), family (Ephesians 6:4), and corporate worship (Hebrews 10:23–25)
 - Attending to the means of grace
 - Prayer
 - Scripture reading
 - Preaching
 - Fellowship
 - Sacraments
 - Baptism (passive on our part—we receive passively)
 - Lord's Supper (active on our part—we actively take eat and drink in faith)
- Service (Galatians 6:2, 5, 10; Ephesians 4:7–16)

Submit to government and heed discipline in doctrine and life in this church

- Submit to government
 - Remember lesson 1 and the OPC BCO (Book of Church Order)
 - Colossians 1:18 → Pastors, Elders (Session, Presbytery, GA), Deacons (Diaconate)
 - Matthew 8:8–12, the Fifth Commandment, Romans 13:1–2, Hebrews 13:7 and 17, 1 Peter 5:1–5
- Heed discipline (making and multiplying disciples, Matthew 28:18–20)
 - Formative and corrective discipline
 - 99% of discipleship is formative discipline—think of a household: 1 Timothy 4:11–16, 2 Timothy 4:1–5
 - 1% is corrective: 2 Timothy 3:16–17, 1 Corinthians 5:13, Matthew 18:15–22
 - Doctrine (Ephesians 4:14–16, Hebrews 4:14, 10:23 → the Westminster Standards are “our confession”)
 - Life (2 Timothy 3:17, Romans 12:1–2, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 22:37–40 → WSC 1)

“Those who would enjoy the dignities and privileges of Christ's family must submit to the discipline of it.”

—Matthew Henry *
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