

Communicant membership vow #4

Last weeks: Proto-Presbyterians → Presbyterians (1560) → American Presbyterians (1789) →

Orthodox Presbyterians (straight teaching via elders) (1936) → Grace OPC (1971)

This week: Communicant membership vow #4 → **Next weeks:** Vow #5

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

Faith → works = progression within vows

Deep dive into vow #4: Jesus is Lord

Acknowledging Jesus as Lord

- Pattern and progression within vows and Reformed faith:
 - Faith → works, promises → performance, preface → 10 commandments, Romans 1–11 → 12–16, Ephesians 2:1–9 → 2:10, Jesus as Priest → Jesus as Prophet and King, justification → sanctification
 - Within vows: vows 1–4a → vow 4b and 5, acknowledgment → service
- Lord Jesus Christ = Adonai Joshua Messiah (in Hebrew) = Lord of lords (Sovereign Lord) Savior, Messiah and unlike Moses, Jesus (Joshua) brings us into the promised land
 - “Jesus” = “Joshua”; “Deliverer”, “Savior”: Matthew 1:21 and Deuteronomy 31:1–8, John 4:24–26

