

MEMBERSHIP

THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

Well, we made it to the end together! First, thank you for sharing the journey with us. We hope and pray that the Discover Mosaic experience has had a positive impact on you and your relationship with Christ. Second, let’s talk about what probably prompted you to join Discover Mosaic in the first place – “How do I become a member of Mosaic?”

It may feel to you like we don’t make a big deal out of formal membership. So, you may be saying, **“Why should I become a member of Mosaic?”** The primary reason would be ownership. To commit to membership is to say, *“I’m in. The ministry of Mosaic is now also MY ministry. This is the group of followers of Christ that I will attach myself to and love and support.”* In some ways, it is like the difference between a group of people who live in the same house and a family. Membership is like becoming a part of the family. This lesson will look at what it means to be a member of Mosaic through an overview of our Membership Covenant. Then we will look at the process of how you become a member of Mosaic.

What does it mean to be a member of Mosaic? Depending on your background or experience, membership at Mosaic may mean something very different than what you are used to. At Mosaic, we have a “covenant membership,” which simply means that our members commit to one another to keep certain promises. Those promises are spelled out in our Membership Covenant, which is included with our membership papers. As you read these promises, remember this statement: “It’s not what Mosaic wants FROM you; it’s what we want FOR you.” Think about what it would be like to be a part of a group of people who are all striving to be the kind of person described by this covenant. Let’s take a look at five promises:

1. **To be a person who is committed to growing and maturing in my relationship with Jesus.** The goal here is not perfection, but consistent progress. We don’t measure ourselves by one another or even by some unattainable standard of maturity. The Bible tells us that one day, Christ will make us fully mature and perfect in eternity. But until then, we seek to grow closer to and more like Jesus each day.

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2. **To live a life of integrity.** A great, simple definition of personal integrity is “being what you say you are and doing what you say you’ll do.” The root of the word integrity carries the idea of wholeness or being complete. The most powerful part of our witness as followers of Christ is how we live before others. Jesus says to “let your light shine before others” and Paul tells us that he lived a disciplined and controlled life “lest after preaching to others, I myself should be disqualified.” The point is that if our words and our works don’t line up, people will see and our witness will be diminished.

3. **To serve together in the Body.** While the church is made of individual followers of Christ, no one person is “The Church.” The New Testament word for church is “ekklesia” which means “an assembly or group that has been called together.” The very word pictures for us a group of people who are connected and together.

One of the pictures used to describe the church is the family of God. As a family, we are committed to serving and caring for one another. The New Testament letters to the churches are filled with “one another” statements encouraging and instructing us to relate to one another as a good family would. We love one another, we encourage one another, we bear one another’s burdens, we share with one another to meet each other’s needs, we challenge one another, and we spur one another on to good works.

But we are not just connected so we can serve one another; we are called together to carry out God’s mission of proclaiming His Name to the world. Together, we serve our communities to bring light to the dark places, to bring life where there is death, and to bring hope where none is found. For this reason, we join our resources so that this can happen in communities all over the world.

4. **To follow the spiritual leadership in the Body.** Hebrews 13:17 says, *“Obey your leaders and submit to them for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.”* God places people in leadership roles over us for the good and protection of our souls. These leaders don’t control our lives, but they do provide spiritual direction for us to follow. One of the blessings of being a part of a church is that we are given a spiritual “covering” from our leaders who lovingly pray for us, teach us, counsel us, and guide us as those who will one day stand before God and give an accounting of their leadership and of our following. When we have that kind of leadership, we can gladly submit and follow them.

5. **To live generously.** Generosity is one of the most prominent character traits of our Heavenly Father. From the beginning of time, God has been the great Giver. He created a world and gave it to mankind. He has provided for His children throughout history. And He has given us the greatest expression of generosity ever by giving us His Son, Jesus, as our Savior. So when we live generously, we are demonstrating the character of God. As part of the family, we share the cost of being a family by supporting the ministry of Mosaic. But we also look for other ways to live generously by supporting other ministries, giving to the poor, supporting missions, and by sharing with those in the Body that have needs.

There are other points in the Membership Covenant, but these sum up what kind of people we are trying to be together. And as any covenant involves at least two sides, you know that as you promise these things, you are becoming a part of a group of people who have also promised these things as well. Again, what would it be like to be a part of a group of people who are all striving to live by these values?

So what is next? If you have prayerfully determined that God wants you to be a part of the Mosaic Body, then you need to fill out the “Blue Papers” for membership, sign the Membership Covenant and give them, along with your written testimony, to your Discover Shepherds. They will get these to a Community Pastor who will read through them and see if there needs to be any further conversation. Then, you will be added to our membership and announced in a Celebration Service as a new member.

We also encourage you to look over the areas/opportunities to serve in Mosaic to see where and how God wants you to engage. As you find a place to bring your unique blend of gifts, talents, and passions and add them to those of others, the ministry will be more effective. You will be blessed, and God will be glorified.

Finally, thank you again for trusting us enough to let us be a part of your life. We look forward to walking with you and serving our dear Savior, Jesus Christ, together.
