

# Membership Class – Toolkit

## 1) Our Mission & New Vision

**Mission:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**New Vision** (Council of Bishops, 2025): “The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.”

**Living the vision:** Practice love, service, and courageous leadership as everyday discipleship.

## 2) What Is Membership?

Membership in the UMC is **covenantal**—not a club. It’s a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ and a commitment to grow as a disciple in a local congregation.

**Biblical anchors:** Romans 12:4–5; 1 Corinthians 12; Matthew 28:19–20.

**Wesleyan practice:** Accountable discipleship (class meetings), works of mercy, and generosity.

## 3) The Vows You Make (¶216–¶221, *Book of Discipline 2020/2024*)

- Renounce evil, reject the powers of sin, and repent.
- Confess Jesus Christ as Savior; trust his grace; serve him as Lord.
- Remain faithful to Christ’s holy Church and represent Christ in the world.
- Support this congregation with your **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness**.

## 4) Responsibilities & Privileges

### Responsibilities

- Worship regularly; pray; study Scripture; join a small group.
- Serve in the church and community; practice generosity (toward a tithe).
- Live a public witness to Christ’s love and justice.

### Privileges

- Receive Word & Sacrament, pastoral care, and formation.
- Vote in the charge conference and be eligible for leadership (¶248, ¶252–¶259).

## 5) Living the New Vision: Practical Next Steps

- **PRAYERS:** Daily prayer rhythm; weekly worship for 90 days.
- **PRESENCE:** Join a small group/class by a set start date.
- **GIFTS:** Begin (or renew) regular giving; move toward percentage giving.
- **SERVICE:** Choose one ministry or community partner to serve monthly.
- **WITNESS:** Write your 3-minute faith story; invite a friend this month.

## 6) How to Join / Next Steps Today

- I am seeking **BAPTISM** (first-time commitment to Christ).
- I am ready to **PROFESS FAITH** (previously baptized, now committing as a United Methodist).
- I wish to **TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP** from \_\_\_\_\_.

**Preferred membership date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions for the pastor:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 7) Get Connected

- **Small Groups:** \_\_\_\_\_ (day/time)
- **Serving Opportunities:** \_\_\_\_\_ (contact)
- **Congregational Care / Prayer:** \_\_\_\_\_ (contact)
- **Children/Youth Ministries:** \_\_\_\_\_ (contact)