

BECOMING A MEMBER at Rainbow Mennonite Church (10/24/2014)

Close study of scripture reveals that God is essentially relational and that we humans are created to live and flourish in real and personal relationships with each other. Furthermore, the community Jesus called “The Body of Christ” is the primary context in which Christians are invited to live out the mutual interdependency of these relationships.

Being the Body of Christ is both difficult and joy-filled. We are nudged and prodded into deeper and more authentic relationships with each other. It requires us to speak truth to each other, to bear each other’s sorrows and to celebrate each other’s joys. Being the Body of Christ means we have to be willing to give to and to receive from each other. Being the Body of Christ calls us to believe and to belong. This takes a level of commitment and love that is made possible through the power of the Spirit.

Here at Rainbow we welcome new members in one of the following three ways: 1) By a confession of faith and baptism, 2) By a letter of transfer, or 3) By reaffirmation of faith if previously baptized and no letter of transfer is available.

Those who become/are members at Rainbow are expected to:

- endeavor to lead a Christian life,
- strive for the strengthening of the church,
- serve willingly in the work of the church,
- vote in all elections,
- hold offices wherever possible when called upon,
- give financially for the work of this congregation,
- share faithfully in the worship and life of the church,
- support the church in prayer, and
- bear the burden of others in the spirit of mutual concern for their welfare.

The Deacons together with the RMC Pastor give primary leadership regarding membership concerns. And joining Rainbow typically includes some kind of public covenant of welcome/affirmation during a Sunday morning worship service.

Today many people have a degree of ambivalence about formally joining or belonging to a faith community. Our religious climate today sometimes leans toward “believing, not belonging.” And certainly we welcome those who want to be a dynamic part of this believing community without formal membership. You don’t have to join to be accepted here at Rainbow. But we sincerely invite you to experience the joys, the benefits, and the responsibilities of full membership.