

Covenant Partnership

The Why, What & How of Membership at Lambrick

First, a few thoughts on why we value membership

1. **Membership in the church is something we see practiced in the early church...** Oddly enough, this is most clearly seen where we read about excommunication. This practice suggests that there was some clarity in the early church of who was a member of the covenant community and who was not. (1 Cor 1-5, Matthew 18:17)
2. **Membership is required by the government** – to clarify who is responsible for what happens here.

But more than this...

3. **Membership helps us commit to one another...** Just as the wedding vows not only express someone's commitment to another, but also call them to live out that commitment, so declaring one's commitment to a church helps to take our commitment more seriously. It calls us to it; it makes us accountable; and it helps us keep our commitment. In a very real sense, it calls forth our commitment. This is as much for our own sake, as it is for others.
4. **Membership helps clarify who is on the team...** Every player on a team needs to know who's on their team. And it's the same in the church. We all need to know who's committed with us to pursue the same life, ministry and vision of Lambrick. Membership then helps the leadership know who is on the team (and consequently, who they can count on). It helps other team members know who they can count on, and it helps uncommitted people know who they can talk to and look to for leadership and understanding about the life and vision of the church.
5. **Membership helps us protect the faith, vision and direction of Lambrick...** We need to know that those who are leading others and our church are committed to the same faith, values, mission and vision. Consequently, we intend to increasingly make membership a requirement for leadership at Lambrick.
6. Lastly, **we will not significantly realize our vision if we do not have a growing core group of people who have covenanted to pursue this vision together...** And that's what a membership covenant is all about.

Why we use the term “Covenant Partnership”

At Lambrick we use the language of “covenant partnership” as opposed to “membership” because, in our day and age, membership suggests ‘rights and privileges’ and being a part of the ‘in’ crowd (which is not at all what membership in the church is about), whereas “covenant partnership” emphasizes sharing the responsibility, playing your part, and working together to achieve a common goal. In other words, *church membership is an invitation into **covenant partnership***. This is what the Lambrick needs and what we believe God wants.

The Requirements of Covenant Partnership

1. *that you’re committed to Christ...* you’ve placed your faith in Christ and are seeking to live as His follower, and others can vouch for you on this. (Have you been baptized? Why not?)
2. *that you know what you are committing to and are ready to pursue these commitments* (you understand and embrace the faith, vision, mission and values of LPC, and that you understand and will seek to fulfill your responsibilities as covenant member).
3. *that you are affirmed by the existing members.*

The Process for pursuing Covenant Partnership

1. Prayerfully explore the Vision, Mission, Values and Faith of Lambrick Park Church, as well as the Partnership Covenant.
2. Submit an “**Exploring Membership**” page to the church office.
3. A couple of our leaders will connect with you to get to know you, your spiritual journey, and the meaning of covenant partnership.
4. We’ll make an opportunity on a Sunday morning for you to publicly express your commitment to the community and be affirmed by the community.
5. Grow and serve with us – *for God’s glory, for the sake of the world, and for our joy in Him.*