

Membership at Radiant Church

Radiant Church functions under a mission that calls us: *To know Christ, to become like Him and to mobilize His people for kingdom service.* We will live out this mission in the context of Christian community. We define Christian community by two documents, the “*Culture of Honor at Radiant Church*” and the “*One Another’s*”. The “*Tenets of Faith*” describe our foundational beliefs. We also maintain “*Written Doctrines-Core Beliefs*” that define in greater detail our scriptural stance regarding our values and topics of importance. *Membership in Radiant Church reflects common beliefs, committed relationships, shared responsibilities and unified purposes.* Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? Amos 3:3.

Membership at Radiant Church is the process by which a person desires to grow and serve God in harmony with the mission, values and beliefs of RC. That member will also be developing a sense of ownership, belonging and responsibility for the health and welfare of RC and the people who share in our community. It will be evident to many that a person has entered into that place. Radiant Church shall have members who shall be non-voting with an understanding that the governing body of Radiant Church is the Board of Directors/Core Leadership Team. Any person who has completed the Foundational Light House group is considered a member of Radiant Church. Any person who has completed the Foundational Light House group who does not wish to be a member of Radiant Church should notify one of the pastors in writing expressing their wishes.

Termination of Membership

Voluntary: Any member of the congregation wishing to terminate membership may do so by notice to a pastor in writing with hopes of having an exit interview. Radiant Church puts a high degree of importance upon community. In practicing the Culture of Honor, it is so important that there be clear communication with leadership before actually leaving church fellowship. Such communication provides helpful information for both parties and guards the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Disciplinary: In cases of persistent, unrepentant sin, or an uncorrected, divisive spirit or a major difference of mission, values and beliefs, the CLT may by 2/3 majority vote ask for disassociation from Radiant Church. In matters when disciplinary action is appropriate the CLT shall strive to act in accordance with Scripture (cf. Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 5; I Thessalonians 3:6).

Non-communication and Non-attendance: Should a member cease to attend or refuse or neglect communication with leadership for a period of three (3) months, they shall no longer be considered a member and their name will be removed from the membership role of the church.

Reinstatement

When a person disassociates with RC due to disciplinary action by the CLT, before that person begins re-attending RC, a written request from that individual to a pastor is required. That request will be submitted to the CLT and granted by a 2/3 majority vote of the CLT. The CLT may reinstate a person with conditions that must be met before full reinstatement of membership occurs.

Based upon our March board meeting, it was suggested that anyone who has completed the Foundational Light House group will be considered as a non-voting member of Radiant Church. In further consideration of this stance, there are a few issues in my mind. How does someone declare that (for whatever reason) they do not want to be a member of Radiant Church? Secondly, should not each member have read and understood the Framework for Ministry, Tenets of Faith and Core Doctrines of Radiant Church?

My proposal to address these issues:

At our annual meeting in April, we could explain that anyone who has completed the Foundational Light House group is now considered a non-voting member of Radiant Church. A list of those graduates will be available. We will explain that we will send out an email to our entire body stating this along with attachments of the Tenets of Faith, Core Doctrines and Framework for Ministry at RC for them to read. We know that the Mission Statement, One Another's, Culture of Honor and Living with Generosity have been taught at the Foundational Light House meeting, but these will also be sent as attachments. This information will also be posted on our website. If a person who has completed the Foundational Light House group desires to not be a member, they should inform us in writing by email or hand delivered. Thus we are assuming membership for each Foundational Light House graduate unless they inform us differently.

What does membership mean at Radiant Church?

Membership is a statement of agreement. Agreement is very important in relationships and in a community. We recognize that there are many churches in Michiana, Radiant Church is but one of those churches. Yet membership says that we are making our commitment clear and we acknowledge that Radiant Church is our home fellowship. We thus make intentional our commitment to this community of faith. At Radiant Church the only people who have voting privileges are the Core Leadership Team. This is by design and is detailed in our Constitution and Bylaws.

A person wanting to enter into membership at Radiant Church must:

- Be a born again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:3) and at least desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:52) learning to be led daily by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:14)
- Be committed to follow Him (Luke 9:23) in devotion, character, conduct and service.
- Complete the "Foundation Light House" group-which addresses the Radiant Church mission statement in detail. Each potential member must be willing to enter into intentional and meaningful relationships within the community of faith at Radiant Church.
- Read, agree with and sign thus showing intentionality toward living in harmony with the following documents: The Mission statement of Radiant Church, the Tenants of Faith, Core Beliefs, "The Culture of Honor", "One Another's", "Framework for Ministry at Radiant Church" and "Living with Generosity" - thus signifying a desire to give themselves relationally, financially and in service to these endeavors.
- Meet with a pastor and at least one of the persons on the Board/Core Leadership Team (CLT) to process these commitments together.