

Policy: Membership

Passed by Mount Zion Council September 28, 2017

Summary

According to Article 3 of Mount Zion's General Operating Bylaw, a member in good standing is one who partakes of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, supports the church with offerings and participates in the life and worship of the congregation, and is faithful in carrying out the responsibilities of membership. After one year of non-participation (as described above), the member loses his/her voting privileges. Their names are to be placed on a 'responsibility list' for an additional year. In the event that a member has not been in good standing for a period of two years, the Congregational Council may remove the member's name from the roll of members. The person continues to be one in special need of the Congregation's prayer and concern.

Elders in care, youth, young adults and children, as well as those living with poverty may not be able to fulfil the responsibilities as stated in the constitution. They require special care and consideration.

The ELCIC requires annual statistics about new members received, members confirmed, and members removed from the roll. In addition, we are asked to indicate how many members are on our responsibility list, and how many 'adherents' we have. Adherents are people who are active in the congregation but not members. For the purposes of congregational voting, we also need to track the number of confirmed members who are at least 18 years of age.

Membership will be defined as outlined in Mount Zion's General Operating Bylaw #1 Article 3 and as defined in Article 1.

Further Mount Zion's membership system will include, but will not be limited to, the following types of members:

Baptized children - children who have been baptized, but not yet confirmed

Confirmed youth - youth who have been confirmed, but are not yet 18 years of age

Adult members - confirmed members over 18 who are contributing (= voting members)

Inactive members – those on our responsibility list

Friends - those who are not members but who are connected to us in some way

No longer members - those removed from our membership

Deceased members

1. *Baptized children*

Every child who is baptized at Mount Zion will become a *baptized member* of the congregation. If the child is less than three years of age, Mount Zion will mail their family a monthly newsletter until their third birthday. When they turn three, they will be invited to Sunday School.

If they are older than three when baptized, Mount Zion will give an age appropriate gift (e.g. a children's book or bible) and an invitation to Sunday School. They will continue to be invited until they are of Confirmation age.

If the parents are not members of Mount Zion, they will be added to the membership as friends. They will be added to the directory and the newsletter mailing list.

2. *Confirmed youth*

All baptized children of the appropriate age will be invited to participate in the congregation's Confirmation program. When a young person is confirmed, they will become a *confirmed youth* until they are 18 years of age. They will be invited to participate in youth activities. At age 18 youth become *adult (voting) members* of the congregation.

3. *Adult Members*

It is the pastor's responsibility to follow up with adults who are no longer participating in the congregation through worship or contribution. To assist the pastor in identifying those in need of contact, all council members and committee chairs have the responsibility to inform the pastor of people they notice are no longer participating. (Sometimes there may be a family or personal crisis, a conflict in the congregation or some way in which the congregation is not connecting well.)

The financial secretary will alert the pastor if someone cancels their PAR contributions. A report of those who have not contributed in the current year will be produced semi-annually and given to the Pastor.

In the new year, members who have not contributed or participated can be moved to Mount Zion's responsibility list at the discretion of the pastor. They will be classified as inactive members. After the second year of non-participation, the pastor in consultation with the council may remove the person from the membership roll. They will no longer be members of Mount Zion.

X

Karen Gastmeier
President, Mount Zion Church Council

Date:

X

Rita Schaus
Secretary

Date:
