

CLASS THREE

What does it mean to be a member of our Particular Church?



OUR VISION:

**We are a family of Hope in Christ
That is intentionally helping other people
encounter the Kingdom of God**

Our **PRIORITIES** include:

- Multi-generational Community
- Authentic worship experiences
- Practical biblical teaching
- Modern faith exploring Ancient practices
- Celebration of Music & Art, Theology & Mystery
- Helping people encounter and grow in Jesus
- Hands-On Help to our community & world

Our **VALUES** include:

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Grace
- Conviction
- Playfulness

LEVERINGTON MISSION STATEMENT Rev 1.1

As part of the Body of Christ,

The mission of the local church is to be a community that together is

Loving God

Loving Neighbor

Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ

What does our church really stand for ?

The Gospel of Jesus Christ should be the reason and the center of everything we do as a church together. Most bible believing churches would agree to that. But have you ever noticed that different churches can feel totally different ? You walk into one church and the mood, the feeling, the personality, the vibe you get is totally different than that of another church. The reason is they have different cultures. Some are welcoming and vibrant, others feel ridged and cold. They have different (often unspoken) priorities that you can literally feel when you walk into the room. The roots of a church's culture are its values – what it stands for. Of all the values our church cherishes, if you could only pick six, which would be the most important to you ? Our Elders have been discerning the top six values we want to emphasize as a church. A church reveals its true values not by what it says, but by what it does. So we decided to identify what we value by describing what we intend to do. Here is our first draft¹:

We earnestly seek God's presence

as demonstrated by authentic worship in multiple formats led with creative excellence.

We offer a life giving atmosphere

as demonstrated by a God-honoring culture of welcome, acceptance, genuineness, integrity, passion and playfulness that can produce a sense of hope

We take care of each other

As demonstrated by a community that seeks to know each other and serves each other with practical acts of kindness and support.

We do Hands-on Mission

As demonstrated by projects that make a real difference in our neighbors' lives.

We grow disciples in a family of Hope

As demonstrated by a multigenerational, multicultural community that intentionally reaches out to the stranger, helps them grow in their faith and empowers the next generation of leaders. We believe life-change happens best in community.

As a church family, we remember our past, live in the present, and invest in our future.

We strive to love God with all our heart, mind, and strength²

As demonstrated by our pursuit of the arts, creativity, innovation, the life of the mind, and forward thinking risk taking - all for the sake of the gospel.

¹ Of course we value biblical doctrines and biblical morality! We value repentance and personal conversion to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. But “values” as used here are about the environment of the church in which those beliefs are held.

² The last value circles back to support the previous five values. It is included because almost all of the first five are about affective things that stir the emotions or practical things we do with our hands. These are crucial but so is the life of the mind. This value affirms our Reformed roots and our conviction that faith and reason go together and that the creation of God-honoring culture, art, and careful thinking is part of our calling as the church.

Understanding our Mission Statement.

Above we stated:

"As part of the Body of Christ, the mission of the local church is to be a community that together is Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ."

Now, let's unpack the implications of the brief summary above:

As part of the Body of Christ,

We are not just a voluntary gathering or another nonprofit organization, we are part of the supernatural, universal body of Christ – formed, empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit of God. Ephesians 4:15-16 says:

... speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The mission of the local church is to be a community that together is

We are not just to be here, statically existing, we have a mission to accomplish. We are not just a collection of individuals, we are a community that is working together as brothers and sisters, like a large family that is...

Loving God

This includes glorifying God through corporate worship. If there were no problems on earth, if everyone knew Jesus – there would still be this core job/privilege/joy of the church: to glorify God and enjoy him forever. It includes obeying God and doing all that God has commanded as revealed in the scriptures. Matthew 22:36-40 says:

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Loving Neighbor

This includes helping people physically, emotionally, and spiritually. This includes hands-on mission and supporting the mission of the church starting in our own city and working out to the far reaches of the world. Acts 1:6-8 says:

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ

This includes evangelism, discipleship, and development of leaders - making disciples who make disciples. It includes teaching, preaching, modeling, encouragement and admonishment. It includes investing ourselves in other people's lives and broadcasting the gospel. We don't have all the answers, but God has given us everything we need to fulfill the great commission of Matthew 28:18-20:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.":

What does Leverington Presbyterian Church seek to provide?

Opportunities to **WORSHIP**

Opportunities to **GROW**

Opportunities to **SHARE**

Opportunities to **CONNECT**

These are signs of both a healthy church and a healthy Christian. This is what we want to be really good at as a church and also what we want for you!

Membership is primarily about taking responsibility for your own faith and the church you love. It is about saying “I am putting my hat in the ring with this particular community.” I will contribute and play my part to help this church grow and flourish. Membership means being willing to give to the church community in many ways:

- Time
- Creativity and Passion
- Money
- Prayers
- Your good name – Outreach
- Fellowship

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Is it a volunteer organization or the supernatural body of Christ?

The church and your kitchen table are to be outposts for the Kingdom of God!

A few of our leaders:

USING OUR WEBSITE

THIS WEEK – Leverington Church

<http://levpres.org/this-week/>

Leverington Church

A family of hope in Christ

[About Us](#)

[Planning Your Visit](#)

[Calendar](#)



Join us this Sunday, January 8th for

“The Five Wise Men...”

Matthew Chapter 2

Langdon Palmer

Our services are set in a beautiful ancient stone church and provide opportunities for singles, families, and children. Children’s church and nursery provided. Free Parking.

[Current Sermon Series](#)

[Sunday Morning Schedule](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Daily Sacred Space](#)

[This Week’s Facebook Posts](#)

[Podcasts](#)

[How to have personal devotionals](#)

To receive tweets on this sermon series on your cell phone,

Send the text message “Follow
LangdonP” to the phone number
40404.

Showing events after 1/10. [Look for earlier events](#)

Tuesday, January 10

6:00pm One Fit Body

7:00pm Session Meeting

7:00pm AI-Anon

8:00pm Roxborough A.A.

Wednesday, January 11

9:30am GEMS

9:30am Baby and Me Yoga

6:00pm One Fit Body - Group Training

7:00pm Girl Scout Meeting

7:00pm One Fit Body - Gentle Yoga

Thursday, January 12

9:30am Jump, Jive and Jam

4:30pm Baby and Me Yoga

6:00pm One Fit Body

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm AI Anon Group Study

8:00pm Gate Street Worship Band Rehearsal

USING OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

It is an interactive, two way page where new events are posted.

PLEASE DO **LIKE** and **FOLLOW** our FACEBOOK PAGE !

Type "Leverington Presbyterian Church" into Facebook's search box

Nice reviews also help other people to find us 😊

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Religious Center · Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HOME REVIEWS ABOUT POSTS P

WHAT DOES BECOMING A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH MEAN ?

1. It means you are saying “This is my church.”

Sometimes people are hesitant to join because they don't know where they will be living a year from now. We tend to say “Be a member where you are now.” Even if you move six months from now, choosing the discipline of being associated with a local church wherever you are is a good thing.

2. It means you have a say in our church's leadership and direction.

As a member you get to vote each year to elect new Elders and Deacons. As a member you can also be considered for these positions. You can speak at and vote at congregational meetings including those where the budget is presented.

3. It means you want to try to follow Jesus in every area of your life.

You don't need to be part of a church for salvation, but we think God intended every believer to be part of a local church. It is so easy to make God into our own image and to make faith all about getting our own needs met when we are trying to live as a lone-ranger Christian. Being part of a local church full of people who are different than you, with all it's imperfect, frustrating, glorious messiness opens you up to hearing things and doing things you wouldn't otherwise.

It is about:

Involvement in the life of this Faith Community

Leadership / Servantship

Giving – My Time, My Talents, My Money

Ownership – Especially in terms of being the Host – Welcoming others

Mission – Extending the Kingdom of God in some way through how you volunteer or invest yourself in other people.

Ambassador – Representing both Christ and our church to the world

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

1. **Determine if you can in good faith say “Yes” to the four questions of church membership:**

1. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world ?
2. Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting his grace and love?
3. Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?
4. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

2. If so, then there are three steps that occur after the Explorer class:

- You write a short personal statement of faith (we can help you !) that will be presented to the Elders. See the following page. Don’t panic – this can be easier than it sounds.
- Next, you are presented to the Elders of the church. It is the elders (the Session) that vote to accept new members.
- Finally, you would make a public profession of your faith to the congregation at a Sunday worship service. This profession consists of being able, in good conscience, “Yes” to each of the four questions above. That’s it!

Writing a Statement of Faith

Part of our Presbyterian heritage is the conviction that faith is not meant to be just a personal, private affair. Rather, we are to be willing to talk about our faith and our beliefs with each other. The very act of expressing our faith to others can help us to think more deeply about what we actually believe.

1st Peter 3:15 says:

“...sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence...”

We ask each person joining our church to write a brief statement of faith that they can then share with the Elders when we gather for a meal together as the last step of this class. This can be as short or as long as you want to make it. We encourage you to start writing it after Class One, and to complete it by Class Three.

What should I include in my statement?

1. A few sentences about your faith journey would be helpful. In other words, did you grow up in church? What is your personal history with Christianity? What experiences along the way helped you grow in your relationship with God? What brought you to our church? If you have a favorite bible verse you could include that as well.
2. Use the Apostles Creed or Nicene Creed as your guide to state your beliefs. While not mandatory, writing one of these creeds in your own words is a great way to summarize the main points of the Christian faith. We are not looking for you to cover every doctrinal issue, but rather to affirm those basics of the gospel that that you can affirm. The cry of the New Testament is “This actually happened! Jesus really did rise from the dead! He is to be our Lord and Savior!” On top of this, the conviction of the Christian Church down through the ages is that God is a Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Even though the Trinity is a mystery that none of us fully understands, we believe it is what is revealed in scripture as fact. Therefore, include some thoughts both about Jesus and the Trinity. For those of you who prefer short and sweet, something as brief as “I acknowledge Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and accept the Apostle’s creed as my own creed” is certainly sufficient for your statement.

We hope this exercise will be interesting and helpful. The creeds and other notes on the Christian faith can be found in your class notebook and on our website.

