

Membership at Open Table

As nothing of our gathering is for “members only,” what is the significance of becoming a member and how is it done?

At Open Table, membership is an outward sign of an inward recognition that I am not a visitor or occasional participant here; it is my public statement that my faith journey is happening in this place, with these people.

- 1) If you wish to become a member, and resonate with the description of “Who we are,” (see website or the other side of this paper) ask yourself questions like these:

Has worship with Open Table become an essential/regular part of my life?
Am I willing to companion others who call OT home and to make visitors welcome?
Am I willing to contribute time, money, and/or effort to help this group function?
Am I willing to participate in discernment and decision-making about our life together?

If you find yourself saying ‘yes’ or if you want to find out more, then:

- 2) Talk with the pastor/doula or someone on Leadership Group. If together you and the pastor/doula agree that membership fits, then:
- 3) We will arrange a time when you can make a public commitment during a Sunday worship time and sign the Membership Book. This can be as simple as saying “I want to be a member and I’m signing the book.” It can also include sharing about your faith journey or naming ways you intend to contribute to group life.

Additional notes:

- A) *The Open Table Membership Book contains an annual “snap shot” of those who are committing as members that year. We will provide opportunities for new and continuing members to review their commitment annually in November and have a ceremonial signing of the book, normally just before Advent and a new liturgical year begins. Others may choose to add their names as the year progresses. Those who move away during the year, but wish to maintain a connection, can record their names in an associate member section.*
- B) *Open Table welcomes members wherever they are on their faith journey. We also encourage baptism for those ready to make a public commitment to Jesus Christ and to the new covenant in his name. If you wish to explore a celebration of baptism, talk with the pastor/doula.*
- C) *For a variety of reasons, some may wish to be a member at Open Table while retaining membership in another congregation. Others will be transferring membership from a previous congregation. Recognizing that our understanding of membership differs from many Mennonite churches, we will be in conversation with the second congregation and will work out membership details appropriate for each case.*

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