

Affirmation of Membership Church in Bethesda

Our doors and our community are open to **ALL** who seek a relationship with God and who are open to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. What we have is available to everyone. Becoming a member of Church in Bethesda, however, involves an extra level of commitment.

Church in Bethesda, a Christian community, embraces you as a member of our church. To be a member carries with it a responsibility to nurture one another and the church community and to practice the teachings of Jesus Christ in your everyday lives. It also brings the joys of faith, fellowship, and love and offers a place of rest in difficult times.

To become a member of Church in Bethesda, you are asked to affirm the following personal commitments:

We come to worship God:

1. *I will participate enthusiastically and consistently in public **worship**, and will seek greater community with God and with my brothers and sisters in this way.*

We come to serve others:

2. *I will practice **indiscriminate kindness** by opening my heart and to serve those around me, both inside and outside the church, with sincere kindness and hospitality. When conflict arises, I will treat others with gentleness and respect, and will not shy away from seeking resolution.*
3. *I will practice **justice and mercy** by not standing idly by when my brothers and sisters are being treated unjustly; I will strive to bring mercy and forgiveness to the world I live in.*

We come seeking faith and wisdom:

4. *I will uphold the value we place on **tradition, conversation, and possibility** by joining with the Church in Bethesda in seeking to understand the history of our Christian faith, and to discover how the wisdom of those who came before us can guide us in our walk of faith today.*
5. *I will commit myself to growing in relationship with my Creator God and will give priority to my **inward journey** of spiritual formation.*

We come to participate in creation:

6. *I will regard this church and this world as a **holy and sacred space**, made and loved by our Creator God, and will seek to show this belief in my actions.*
7. *I will seek **truth, mystery, and beauty** by affirming and encouraging creative acts as a way that God is made real in our world; I will not be afraid of people who express their love for God differently than I do.*
8. *I will commit myself to nurturing friendships, not only within the Church in Bethesda but with all those whom God places in my path. I commit myself to and **outward journey** of growing into a life of love and service towards others.*

I affirm my commitment to these values as a member of Church in Bethesda.