

## **Active and Inactive Members**

The practice of church membership has developed in an attempt to help grasp hold of each other in responsibility and love. By identifying with a church we let the local church know that we intend to be committed in attendance, giving, prayer, and service. We assure the church of our commitment to Christ in serving with them, and we call for their commitment to serve us in love and to encourage us in our discipleship.

### **Active Membership**

Membership is a reflection of a living commitment to Jesus Christ and to the local church because church membership is the church's corporate testimony to and endorsement of the individual member's salvation.

The church is:

- a) a regular assembly of people who profess and give evidence that they have been saved by God's grace alone, for His glory alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
- b) a local, living, and loving collection of people who are committed to Christ and committed to each other.
- c) a display of God's wisdom and glory (Eph 3:10).
- d) a display of counter-cultural, Christ-like love (John 13:35).

Church membership is thus for believers only. It is not for those who simply give cognitive assent to the gospel. It is for those whose lives evidence an increasing application of the principles of the gospel to the situations of their everyday lives, and whose character increasingly reflects the holiness of God.

MPBC has identified simple expectations for her active membership:

- a) Attend worship services and Sunday School (small group) on a weekly basis
- b) Serve on a ministry team or in some capacity
- c) Give financially ( the Bible teaches we are to give 10% of our income to the local church and we affirm the authority of Scripture)
- d) Protect the unity of the church (no gossip, back-biting, criticizing or complaining, and handling disagreements biblically not emotionally or selfishly-Matt 18).

### **Inactive Members**

An inactive member is one in which he or she has no church involvement, attendance, or ministry for a six month period. In such cases the member will be contacted for explanation of inactivity and placed on the inactive member list. An inactive member is:

- a) one who remains on the church roll but has lost voting privileges and other privileges associated with being an active member such use of the facilities etc...
- b) their status as an "active member" can be reinstated with steady, consistent attendance and service for 3 months
- c) an inactive member who remains inactive for the period of one year will be contacted concerning their inactivity and encouraged to become active. If, in such cases, the member continues inactivity they will be removed from the church roll pending notification of such action
- d) a former member who has been removed from the church roll can regain membership after the completion of the Membership class and personal interview concerning their desire to rejoin MPBC

\*Certain exceptions to this policy apply such as home or nursing homebound, the sick, military, college, and other such circumstances.

**“Uninvolved or inactive members” confuse both real members and non-Christians about what it means to be a Christian. Quite honestly the “active members” do the “inactive members” no favors by allowing them to remain members of the church. How do we know that and testify that an invisible “member” is faithfully running the race? We are not in a position to say that they are not Christians; we simply are unable to affirm that they are.**

**The lack of involvement of many members in such a low accountability environment often taints the church's corporate witness in the community and confuses unbelievers around us about what it means to be a Christian. It makes the church look grossly hypocritical when an immature or unconverted member sins repeatedly in a publicly known way.**