



Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

What makes a person a member? There are lots of organizations, faith communities, sports clubs, etc. etc. etc. that have specific outlines of what a person or family needs to do to become a member and stay a member of that group. Some churches are very strict about who is a part of them and who it not. The United Church of Christ, organized in 1957, has had no tests to join. You didn't have to believe a certain theology, catechism, or attend so many classes and services before. It was pretty simple. You could join in three ways: show proof of your baptism, have a letter of transfer from another church, or make a declaration that you believe in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit (that was it, you didn't have to explain or defend what you believed).

This congregation, the history I am not totally familiar with, has a very simple way of doing membership. If you think you are a member, you are a member. We do not have a membership list anymore and do not have a count of how many members we have. (A little awkward when meeting with other pastors and they ask how big is your church, and I reply, "I am not sure." And then I tell them our average worship attendance.)

We can, and do, receive members in a traditional way yet. I have to be an "official" member of this church to keep my ordination standing through the Minnesota Conference and the United Church of Christ. Next Thursday, we will have a New Members Orientation which will give an overview of our local and wider church. We can't cover all of what and who we are, but we can supply a road map and some information (like constitution, by-laws, and Time and Talent Brochure) and answer the questions of the participants who show up.

We will have this opportunity on Thursday, the 25th, at 6:30 pm. You can join us in person or on [Zoom](#). Just showing up, doesn't mean you have to join, it can just be an informational time of learning.

What binds or ties us together as a church: our love for God, each other, community, practice, worship, social justice, our building, charity, people, the Holy Spirit, and many other ways. Blessed be the ties that bind.

Peace