

Membership Interview Questions

Profession of Faith

To be a member at Covenant, we're looking for a "credible profession of faith," which means we're looking for:

1. A clear understanding of the good news about Jesus, as summarized in our six membership vows (for these, see the back).
2. A living faith in Christ and genuine love for him.

The following are some questions that help to bring out these two things (suggested answers are in brackets).

- Testimony:
 - Would you please share how you came to know Jesus?
 - Have you given your life to him? Do you love him and want to know him?
- Scripture:
 - Where do we learn about God? [the Bible]
 - What do you believe about the Bible? What makes it special? [it's God's Word and is perfectly true]
- God:
 - How many gods are there? [one]
 - How many persons are there in God? [Three: Father, Son, Holy Spirit]
 - Are all three persons God, equal with each other? [yes]
- Sin:
 - What is sin? [disobedience against God]
 - Have you sinned against God?
 - What do sinners deserve? What will God do to those who don't repent? [we deserve hell for our sins, God's righteous anger]
 - What can we do to save ourselves and take away our sin? [nothing]
- God accomplishing salvation:
 - God made a plan for sinners to be right with him again. What did he do to save us? [sent Jesus to die on the cross as a substitute for our sins]
 - Who is Jesus? [God the Son come in the flesh; fully God and fully man]
 - Did Jesus stay dead? [no, he rose from the dead on the third day]
 - Is he still alive now, having his body in heaven? [yes]
- Us receiving salvation:
 - How do we get the salvation Jesus purchased for us? What would you tell a friend who asks you how to be saved? [we must turn away from our sin and trust in Christ]
 - Do we have to do any good deeds for God to save us? [no]
 - What will you say to God on the day of judgment when he asks you why you should enter heaven? [Jesus took away my sin on the cross and gave me his perfect righteousness]
- Obedience:
 - How do you feel about your past sin?
 - Do you want to serve God with all that is in you and are you committed to living a Christian life? What does that mean to you?
 - Who helps us to obey? [God the Holy Spirit]
- Baptism marks us as God's people. Have you been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit?

- The Lord's Supper helps Christians to grow. What do the bread and wine represent? [Christ's body and blood]
 - When we take the Lord's Supper, what are some things we should be thinking about? [remembering Jesus, how he died for us]
- Will Jesus come again? [yes, he will come again to make all things right]

Membership vows

1. Do you believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the Word of God, and its doctrine of salvation to be the perfect and only true doctrine of salvation?
 - What does "doctrine" mean? [teaching]
2. Do you believe in one living and true God, in whom eternally there are three distinct persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—who are the same in being and equal in power and glory?
3. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son, who came in the flesh, lived the life God requires, died the death we deserve, and then rose again from the dead?
4. Do you confess that because of your sinfulness you abhor and humble yourself before God, that you repent of your sin, and that you trust for salvation not in yourself but in Jesus Christ alone?
 - What does "abhor" mean? [hate; we hate our sin]
 - What does "repent" mean? [turn; we turn away from our sin to God]
5. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your sovereign Lord, and do you promise that, in reliance on the grace of God, you will serve him with all that is in you, forsake the world, resist the devil, put to death your sinful deeds and desires, and lead a godly life?
6. Do you promise to participate faithfully in this church's worship and service, to submit in the Lord to its government, and to heed its discipline, even in case you should be found delinquent in doctrine or life?
 - What is the government of the church? [the pastors and elders]
 - Does "submit in the Lord" mean you have to do everything we say? [no, not if we go against the Bible]
 - What does it mean to "heed its discipline? [you listen when they show you from the Bible that you are walking in sin]
 - What does "delinquent" mean? [disobedient]
 - Do you want the church to shepherd you, to know you, and to seek after you if you go astray?

Life in the Church

Finally, I'll ask about how we can help you become part of the life of the church.

- Although you only need a credible profession of faith to join, do you understand the beliefs and practices of our church? Do you have any concerns with them? How can the church serve you?
- What are your gifts? How do you want to serve the church?