

# Meaning of Church Membership for Younger Disciples

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<b>Youth Retreat</b>	To begin building a sense of community by getting to know each other. Parents will join us for one session as we discuss expectations and the outline for this membership study. Opportunities for questions and dialogue about our faith and relationship to the church.
<b>A Look at the Book</b>	This session will focus on an overview of our “textbook” – the Bible.
<b>In the beginning</b>	A survey of the books of the Old Testament with emphasis on the continuing effort of God to reveal God’s will through ordinary people.
<b>The Truth is...</b>	Our emphasis today will be to discover the “truth” revealed in selected OT stories. What do we look for as we read these ancient stories of faith?
<b>Christian Handbook</b>	A survey of the books of the New Testament: The Gospels; Acts of the Apostles; Paul’s Letters; and additional writings.
<b>To Tell the Truth</b>	The emphasis will be to discover the “truth” revealed in selected New Testament passages.
<b>The Life of Jesus</b>	A closer examination of the life of Jesus. What made him special? What does his life mean for us today?
<b>The Church Begins</b>	A look at the Church from its beginning to the time of the Protestant Reformation. Emphasis on the church of the New Testament.
<b>The Church Expands</b>	A look at the church from the Protestant Reformation to the present. Who were Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Menno Simons, Alexander Mack? Why are there so many different churches today?
<b>What Was That Again</b>	A mid-course evaluation. A time to review, ask questions, and clarify what we have covered so far.
<b>The Brethren Story</b>	A review of the Brethren beginnings and history. [If possible this session will be a road trip to Camp Mack to view the mural history of the COB]
<b>This We Believe</b>	A look at a number of Brethren beliefs and their biblical basis: Peace and non-violence; nonconformity; service; integrity; simple life; temperance; stewardship; reconciliation; community; and discipleship.
<b>Brethren Ordinances</b>	A look at the Love Feast, Anointing, Baptism and their biblical basis.
<b>What Does It Mean?</b>	A session for pulling it all together as we discover the meaning of church membership. Each person should be assessing whether they are ready for church membership.