



Membership Policy

To:	Future and Current Members of Resurrection
Policy Author:	Congregational Council
Adopted on or Effective Date:	May 16, 2017
Statement of Policy:	To set a clear definitions of congregational membership at Resurrection Lutheran Church

Membership Policy

Becoming a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church is a two-step process:

- 1) Take the New Member Class typically scheduled three times per year.
- 2) Be formally received in front of the congregation at the Receiving Sunday worship service typically scheduled one to two weeks after the New Member Class or by Adult Baptism.

The purpose of New Member Class is to inform, educate, engage and immerse those considering membership into the life and culture of Resurrection. Individuals cannot receive this information simply by transferring membership or regularly attending Sunday services. The New Member Class provides an opportunity to learn about Resurrection history, meet ministry directors and learn from the Lead Pastor about what it means to be Lutheran.

This policy applies to those who are transferring their membership from another church, those who are affirming their faith (did not have a previous church home) and those new to the Christian faith. Youth who have been confirmed through Resurrection are already members of Resurrection. Youth who are currently attending confirmation classes at Resurrection are welcome to attend, but are not required to attend the New Member Class as they will become members of this congregation through their confirmation. Children and young adults who have been confirmed in another congregation must also attend the New Member Class. If a confirmed family member cannot attend the New Member Class and be received, he or she will not be considered a member of Resurrection.

TRANSFERRING MEMBERSHIP

Those who had a church home before coming to Resurrection are transferring their membership. All those transferring their membership, even from another LCMC church, must attend the New Member Class and be formally received in front of the congregation at the Receiving Sunday worship service. It's assumed that those transferring their membership are baptized. Those who transfer their membership must contact their former church home and officially have their records transferred to Resurrection.

AFFIRMING ONE'S FAITH

Adults who do not currently have a church home, but have been baptized come to Resurrection through **affirmation** of their faith. Affirming one's faith consists of a public confession of the Apostles Creed and is a part of the Receiving Sunday worship service.

CLASSIFICATIONS OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Under the Resurrection constitution there are three classifications of active membership: baptized, confirmed and voting. Each is a step that builds on the previous. Resurrection also recognizes inactive membership.

BAPTIZED MEMBERS

All members must be baptized. Adults who are not baptized should talk with one of Resurrection's pastors about classes for adult baptism. According to the RLC Constitution, baptized members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.

BAPTIZED CHILDREN

Children who are baptized, but not yet confirmed, are received as *baptized* members of Resurrection if their parents take the New Member Class and transfer their membership or affirm their faith. Baptized youth become members with voting privileges when they are confirmed at Resurrection and meet the other requirements to vote, refer to below.

BAPTIZED ADULTS

People who are baptized after the age that confirmation is offered at Resurrection are received as full active members. Receiving the sacrament of Baptism as an adult also includes a public affirmation of faith in words of the Apostles Creed. The requirement to take the New Member Class can either be done before or after their baptism but the requirement of being received in front of the congregation on Receiving Sunday is optional as one is received publically in their Baptism.

CONFIRMED

Under the Constitution, confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as baptized and confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith. Youth will remain confirmed members for eight (8) years or until they meet the requirements of a voting member, whichever comes first. Eight years after confirmation these individuals will either have become active voting members of Resurrection or be classified as inactive members.

VOTING

Voting members are confirmed members (as defined above). Such confirmed members shall have made a contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year. Prior to the Annual Meeting and Special Congregational Meetings, confirmed members are reminded that they must have contributed in the current or preceding calendar year to be eligible to vote.

OTHER MEMBERSHIP

Inactive members are those who have not contributed to Resurrection for five consecutive years after yearly attempts to alert the member that their membership may be forfeited. Per the Constitution, C7.05 membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. Death:
 - Upon notification of Death, a member's status will be made inactive;
- b. Resignation
 - A member's status will be made inactive upon the office staff receiving written notice of intent to resign active membership
- c. Transfer
 - Upon written transfer request from member, a letter indicating the dates of baptism, confirmation and marriage history will, if available, be issued to the member's new congregation of choice, affording the opportunity to be received by reaffirmation of faith
- d. Release
 - An inactive member will be released from membership if 5 years of annual communication from the church office does not elicit a response
- e. Removal from the roll due to inactivity which is defined as no record of a financial contribution for five (5) years or longer
 - Inactive members will remain persons for whom the church has a continuing pastoral concern
- f. Due process and disciplinary action by the Congregation Council
 - The Congregational Council may, by a two thirds vote, suspend, place on probation, censure or terminate membership as defined in the "Consequences of Violating Policies & Procedures"

Members who moved into an inactive status may be reinstated as active members by reaffirming their faith during Receiving Sunday. Receiving Sundays are held three times each year. Inactive members who wish to reaffirm their faith must contact the Lead Pastor to be part of the Receiving Sunday ceremony.

Members on the inactive list shall have all the privileges and duties of membership, except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices, including membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.

At the discretion of the Lead Pastor and/or Council, exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case to previously active members who are now financially incapable of making an annual contribution, but continue to attend worship on a regular basis.

Contribution of Record

A husband and wife will share the same giving record. Parents and their unconfirmed children will share the same giving record. Pledges and donations will be attributed to the family. Youth who are confirmed may have their own giving record and are encouraged to give separate from their family. Upon confirmation, the church will notify the newly confirmed of the responsibility and opportunity to be voting members of Resurrection after they reach the age of 18. To be eligible to vote at the annual meeting, confirmed members must be in good standing as a voting member as stated above.

Frequently Asked Questions about Membership at Resurrection

Do children need to take the New Member Class to be considered members?

Children who are not yet confirmed, but are baptized are considered baptized members of Resurrection. Children in fifth grade or older are welcome to take the New Member Class, but it is not required. Children are on the path to become voting members of Resurrection as they participate in Cross Training and eventually become confirmed and make financial contribution.

Before children who transfer to Resurrection are confirmed, their membership status would be the same as other kids whose parents are members – Baptized Members. Sitting in on the New Member Class at this age doesn't make the child any more of a member than his or her classmates, it just gives them a sense of what their new church is all about.

Can children who have not taken the New Member Class and are not yet confirmed be received with their parents on Receiving Sunday?

Yes! Children who are not yet confirmed may join the church with their family as baptized members. Children are on the path to become voting members of Resurrection as they participate in Cross Training and eventually become confirmed and contribute.

If a young adult, who was confirmed at another church, comes to Resurrection with their parents, do they need to take the New Member Class?

Yes. Confirmed young adults who transfer to Resurrection with their family must take the New Member Class just like their parents. If they do not, their membership will remain at the former church home.

Who can vote at the annual meeting?

To be eligible to vote at the annual meeting, a member must meet the requirements of a voting member. They must have made a financial contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year. Prior to the Annual Meeting, confirmed members are reminded they must have contributed in the current or preceding calendar year to be eligible to vote.

What are benefits to membership?

Only members may vote at the annual meeting (if they have also contributed) and they are able to hold leadership positions such as ministry director or Congregational Council member.

If someone wants to simply transfer their membership from one LCMC church to Resurrection, do they still need to take the New Member Class?

Yes. Resurrection requires all new members to take the New Member Class and be officially received during Receiving Sunday. Resurrection's requirements for membership are above and beyond what the LCMC requires. Our desire is for all members to know the ministry areas where they can serve and be served.

If a wife takes the New Member Class and the husband does not, may the husband be received on Receiving Sunday?

No. All family members need to take the New Member Class and be received to be considered members of Resurrection. We want the entire family to hear about the opportunities Resurrection offers them and share ways they can apply their gifts. While the husband may join his wife up front for Receiving Sunday as a show of support, he is not considered a member until he takes the New Member Class and is officially received.

If someone is a member of another church but is an active participant at Resurrection, where does his membership reside?

Membership would reside at the former church. Regardless of how active someone is at Resurrection, they must take the New Member Class and be formally received to be considered a member. Those who were members of another congregation before coming to Resurrection must take the New Member Class and be received on Receiving Sunday. New members who come to us from another church are asked to contact their former church and transfer their membership to Resurrection. Those who take the New Member Class are made aware that they need to request the transfer.

Do parents need to be members to have their child baptized at Resurrection?

Yes. The parents should be baptized members or in the process (signed up for the next New Member Class) of becoming a member through baptism and/or attending the New Member Class. Infants are considered Baptized Members.

Do couples need to be members to hold their wedding at Resurrection?

No, but the hope is that they will join. The cost to use the church facilities for weddings is less for members than non-members. Couples holding their weddings at Resurrection are required to take pre-marital counseling with an assigned Resurrection pastor.

Do you need to be a member to have your funeral or a family member's funeral at Resurrection?

No.

Is there is a cost to use the church facilities for a funeral? No, however, there is a food cost if the family would like the Resurrection Funeral team to provide a light lunch or coffee served after the funeral worship service.