

Membership At Fellowship of Hope, July 20 2012

1. As members at Fellowship of Hope, we express our commitment to and expectations of each other in the following ways:
 - Giving ourselves to being shaped and formed by the Spirit of the Living God, and by Jesus through daily practices—accompanying and being accountable to each other as we seek to embody our faith..
 - Using the FoH vision, mission, values statements as a primary reference for our lives—our personal, communal, and vocational lives.
 - Participating in the FoH community life—giving and receiving, contributing and participating in the life and well-being of the community and the care of its resources.

2. Membership at Fellowship of Hope is an expression of our commitment to following Jesus. Anyone is welcome to enter into a membership process with us. Because each person is unique and comes with particular life experiences and understandings, the process for entering into membership will be guided by those particularities.

We understand the membership process to be an extension of our hospitality in which we all learn and grow together. The membership process includes, but is not limited, to the following:

- Forming relationships through participation in community life;
- Conversations, formal and informal, covering topics and issues related to
 - congregational vision, mission, and values;
 - Anabaptist and Mennonite history and theology
 - Mennonite Church USA teaching positions (*Articles of Faith in a Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*)
- The role and experience of baptism

The person in the membership process will be accompanied by 2-4 people from the congregation. Together they will listen and discern whether or not to commend the person to the congregation for membership.

Persons are received into membership during a Sunday morning worship service.

3. Fellowship of Hope keeps an active membership roll. Being a member also means being part of the broader Anabaptist community, specifically Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference and Mennonite Church USA, and Mennonite World Conference.

Congregational decisions and decisions about congregational life will be made by members. At the same time we desire to listen to and invite voices “outside” the circle of membership in the process of decision making.

Who we are

We are a community of human beings, broken and blessed, gathered around Christ's Table. We experience healing, salvation, and wholeness in sharing God's love and grace with each other, with our community, and with our world.

What we do

As guests at Christ's Table, with joy we invite all to our fellowship. We give ourselves to the Reign of God in the world, seeking to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God" in our homes, our work, in south central Elkhart, and around the globe.

What we value

- Worship-centered community life
- Life-cultivating, life-giving relationships
- Peace, nonviolence, justice
- Corporate service
- The inward and outward journeys
- Learning together—corporate experiences, play, study, etc.
- Diversity and inclusion
- Sustainability, stewardship of resources, Earth care
- Support and expression of gifts
- Connections with area churches

"A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other's lives. It is the knowledge that people have of each other, their concern for each other, their trust in each other, the freedom with which they come and go among themselves."

-from Wendell Berry's essay, "The Loss of the Future" in the book, *the long legged house*

"Hospitality means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines. It is not to lead our neighbor into a corner where there are no alternatives left, but to open a wide spectrum of options for choice and commitment."

-Henri Nouwen