

Escalon Presbyterian

Membership



Membership as Covenant Partners:

The Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

Escalon Presbyterian

Who We Are

Escalon Presbyterian Church is a Christ-centered community of faith that has been serving the Central Valley for over one-hundred years now. As we proceed into the second century of mission and ministry, we intend to hold dearly to three things: our church's mission, our church's identity, and our church's people.

Our Church Mission is to:

- *Seek:* to bring others to faith in Jesus Christ
- *Serve:* in mission locally and globally
- *Support:* personal growth through God's Word
- *Sustain:* a Christ-centered fellowship

Our Church Identity is Presbyterian

- We are a Scripturally grounded church, believing that true life and salvation is given by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ - his life, death and resurrection.
- We are a Confessional church that holds to basic confessions of faith (summaries of basic biblical beliefs) that were composed in order to help us better understand Scripture, and therefore more clearly understand faith and life through Jesus Christ.

Our Church's People are Covenant Partners in Ministry

- The people of our church are essential to our congregation's DNA - the Body of Christ enabling us to work together as a local church for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Covenant Partners participate in the spiritual discernment of the congregation as it selects its leadership as elders and deacons, its pastoral leadership, its ministry focus and potential expansion.

Becoming A Covenant Partner

What it means for you

While believers experience their membership in Christ's body in spontaneous and unstructured gatherings, they fulfill the Lord's purposes best when they covenant to fulfill the biblical vision of membership in particular congregations. These covenantal relationships provide the real-life context for the Holy Spirit's ongoing transformation of believers into spiritual maturity, with the belief that these strong relationships nurture understanding, encouragement, correction, and discipleship-in-mission.

After completing a meaningful preparation process as determined by the [leadership], **those who wish to embrace the congregation's covenantal expectations may become covenant partners by action of the session after hearing testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.** For those not previously baptized, the Sacrament of Baptism will be provided for these new covenant partners and offered to children under their care.

Benefits

Becoming a covenant partner is important not only to the congregation but even more importantly for the covenant partner, as they are positioned to receive encouragement, support, and correction that the Lord promises to those who share spiritual fellowship. In committing to the cause of a life lived in and through Jesus Christ, covenant partners grow in Christian community together to become more Christ-like. In Christian community, we realize the fullness of life together and life in Christ, and discover our unique place in a common mission and narrative of God's work. The covenant partner and the congregation are both blessed and become a great blessing as they covenant together, intentionally, in Christ's work.

Expectations

Each covenant partner shall strive to be faithful to Christ by participating in the congregation's worship, fellowship, and service on an ongoing basis. Faithfulness in Christ involves each covenant partner's dedication of time and talents for the congregation's mission and ministry, in accordance to the gifts that God has bestowed upon him or her. Faithfulness also involves the stewardship of finances. As each covenant partner grows in the grace of giving, financial support of the congregation's mission and ministry should grow, along with tangible support for other ministries that advance God's Kingdom. Faithfulness to Christ also involves each covenant partner's dedication of time and talents for the congregation's mission and ministry.

** Those who are invited to take significant leadership roles in the congregation [elder, deacon, staff] shall be spiritually mature, agree with the Essential Tenets of ECO - and should ordinarily be members for at least a year.*

An Invitation

The Session of Escalon Presbyterian Church would like to invite you to prayerfully consider becoming a Covenant Partner (member). Please talk with Pastor Troy about joining a new members class - a couple-hour introduction to who we are, what we believe, and how you can covenant with us in mission and ministry.

For Further Reading

The Essentials Tenets: This is the document that declares our basic beliefs. It can be found on our website or at our denominations website: eco-pres.org (under resources)