

I AM THE CHURCH

**WEEK 2: I WILL BE A FUNCTIONING
MEMBER**

COMMUNITY LEARNING COVENANT



1. Use chat for questions and comments.



2. Be Respectful

- All questions and comments should acknowledge the sacred value of people. For example, “Is my comment or question a barrier or bridge to deeper learning?”
- The virtual chat space is a community, not a monologue.



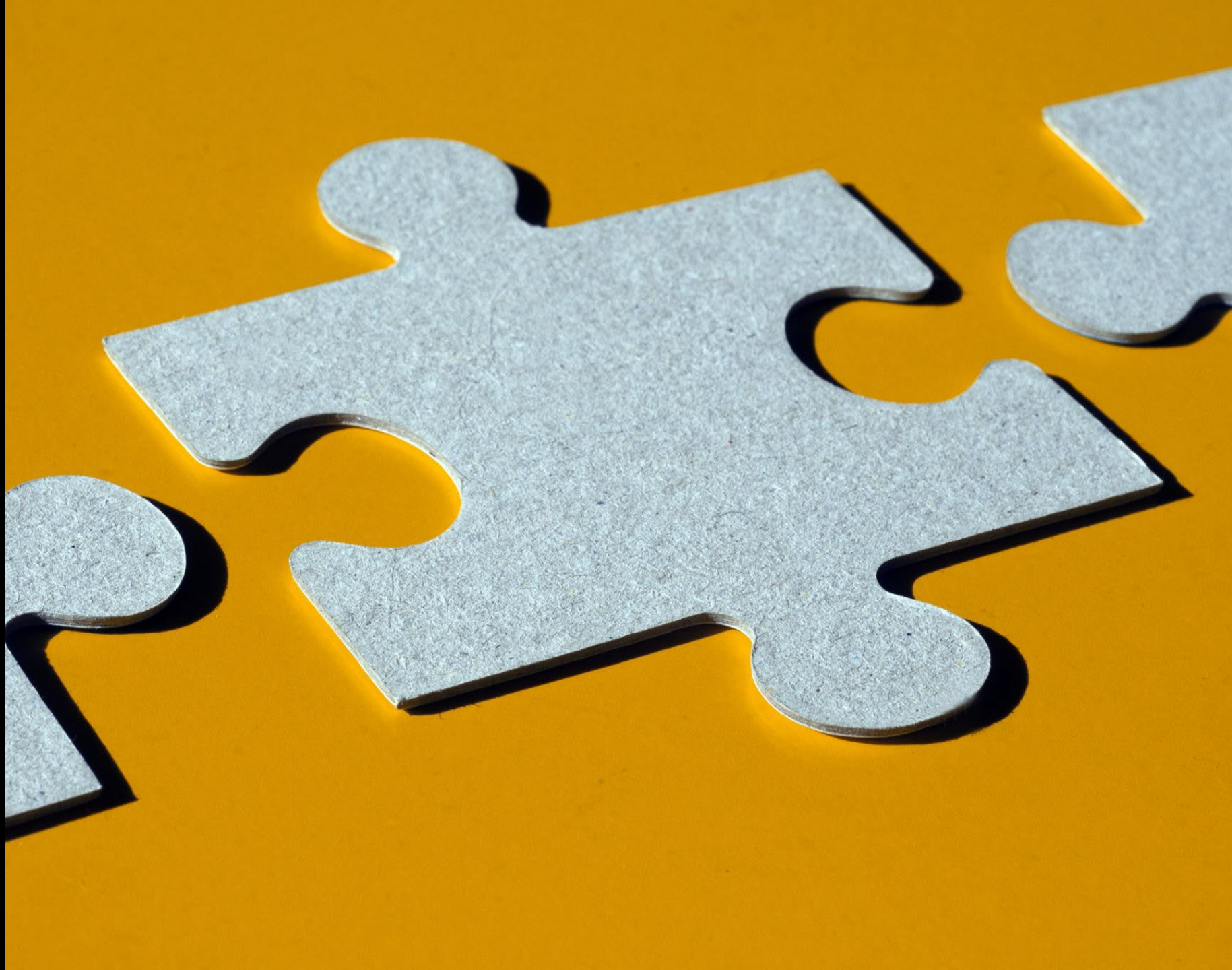
3. When possible, avoid generalizations by pointing out specific passages or pages in the book.



4. If we do not get to your questions/comments; or want the question/comment to remain confidential, etc., please email questions/comments to pastor@lhmbc.net. You can expect that we will do some level of follow-up.



**5. Invite
friends and
family.**



Review

Top 10 Challenges for
Contemporary Church
Membership

What Church
Membership IS NOT

What The Church IS

**WHAT
CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP
DOES NOT
MEAN...**

1. Church membership is
NOT about AFFILIATION;
it's about PARTICIPATION

**WHAT
CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP
DOES NOT
MEAN...**

2. Church membership is NOT about a
DENOMINATION

**WHAT
CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP
DOES NOT
MEAN...**

3. Church is NOT a
BUILDING; it's a BODY

JAMES CONE'S DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH

“The people of God, whose primary task is that of being Christ to the world by proclaiming the message of the gospel (kerygma), by rendering services of liberation (diakonia), and by being itself a manifestation of the nature of the new society (koinonia).”

Source: Joseph W. Caldwell

Problematic Models of Church Membership

1. Membership is about PERKS.
2. Membership is about PRIVILEGES.
3. Membership is about OTHERS SERVING ME.
4. Membership is about MY PREFERENCES
TAKING PRECEDENT.
5. Membership is about LEADERSHIP
CONFORMING TO MY DESIRES.
6. Membership is about LONGEVITY
DETERMINING VALUE.

Today's Truth Nugget

Church membership will be a problem whenever it is focused on receiving instead of giving, being served instead of serving, rights without responsibilities, and entitlement without sacrifices.

Getting a Grip on the Church of Corinth

SETTING:

- a. Corinth an established seaport town.
- b. Paul and other leaders organize Corinthian Church sometime in the 50s AD

DATE: 54-64 AD

Getting a Grip on the Church of Corinth

Strengths

1. Center of thought, activity, and commerce.
2. Accomplished and diverse membership.
3. Passionate worship

Challenges

1. Witness-hindering Scandal - (1 Cor. 5:15-13)
2. Cliques and Factions Within Church Jockeying for Power - (1 Cor. 1:10-17; 1 Cor 12-14)
3. Marginalization of Poor Members – (1 Cor. 11:17-34)
4. Abuse of Church Leaders - (1 Cor. 3:1-4:5)
5. Hierarchy Based on Spiritual Gifts – (1 Cor. 12:1-7)

**PAUL'S VISION
FOR CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP –
1 Corinthians
12-14**

1 Corinthians 12 – CHURCH AS BODY
OF CHRIST



1 Corinthians 13 – CHURCH AS LOVE
CENTER



1 Corinthians 14 – CHURCH AS UNITED
AND MATURE



So...

**What does it mean to be a functioning
member of the Body of Christ**

**1. A FUNCTIONING
MEMBER KNOWS
THAT WE ARE ALL
NECESSARY PARTS
OF THE WHOLE -
1 CORINTHIANS
12:12, 12:27-28**



1 CORINTHIANS 12:12; 12:27-28

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27-28

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

**2. A FUNCTIONING
MEMBER KNOWS
OUR DIFFERENCES
ARE STRENGTHS
NOT LIABILITIES –
1 CORINTHIANS
12:14-18**



1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-18

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

**3. A FUNCTIONING MEMBER GIVES
THEIR BEST REGULARLY –
1 CORINTHIANS 12:26**



1 CORINTHIANS 12:26

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.



**4. A FUNCTIONING MEMBER
KNOWS, TRUSTS, AND
OPERATES FROM THEIR OWN
GIFTS – 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27**



1
CORINTHIANS
12:27

Now you are
the body of
Christ and
individually
members of it.

A birthday cake with lit candles and bokeh lights in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

**5. A FUNCTIONING MEMBER
RESPECTS, VALUES, AND HONORS
THE GIFTS OF OTHERS – 1
CORINTHIANS 12:24b-25**



1 CORINTHIANS
12:24b-25

But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.

TAKE THE PLEDGE:

I AM A CHURCH MEMBER.

I LIKE THE METAPHOR OF MEMBERSHIP. IT'S NOT MEMBERSHIP AS IN A CIVIC ORGANIZATION OR A COUNTRY CLUB. IT'S THE KIND OF MEMBERSHIP GIVEN TO US IN 1 CORINTHIANS 12: "NOW YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST, AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF IT (1 COR. 12:27).

TAKE THE PLEDGE:

BECAUSE I AM A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, I MUST BE A FUNCTIONING MEMBER, WHETHER I AM AN "EYE," AN "EAR," OR A "HAND." AS A FUNCTIONING MEMBER, I WILL GIVE. I WILL SERVE. I WILL MINISTER. I WILL EVANGELIZE. I WILL STUDY. I WILL SEEK TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS. I WILL REMEMBER THAT "IF ONE SUFFERS, ALL THE MEMBERS SUFFER WITH IT; IF ONE MEMBER IS HONORED, ALL MEMBERS REJOICE WITH IT" (1 COR. 12:26).