

Outline of Membership Class

The Membership Class is made up of four one hour classes:

- Class One:
 - Watch video on Beliefs and Doctrines
 - What do You Promise as a member
 - The Tenets of the Presbyterian Church
 - The Confessions of the Presbyterian Church



Presbyterian Church (USA) Presbytery of Northumberland Synod of the Trinity

What do we mean when we say the
Church or the Presbyterian Church....

Ephesians 4:4-6 NRSV

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

The church is the body of Christ...those who gather to hear the word, celebrate the sacraments and follow the disciplines of Christ.



Five Promises of Church Membership

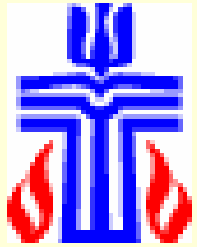
- **Question 1: Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of the Living God and have you asked him to be the savior of your life?**
- **Question 2: Do you promise to renounce (give up) evil and affirm your reliance upon God's grace?**
- **Question 3: Do you promise to participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of the church?**
- **Question 4: Do you promise to be good stewards of your time, talents, and treasures that God has given to you, so that you might help him build his kingdom here on earth?**
- **Question 5: Do you promise to submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church and promise to further its purity and peace?**



The Marks of a Good Member G-5.0102

A faithful member accepts Christ's call to be involved responsibly in the ministry of the church, which includes:

- **Proclaiming the good news**
- **Taking part in the common life and worship of the church**
- **praying and studying scripture**
- **supporting the work of the church through the giving of your time, talents and treasures**
- **participating in the governing responsibilities of the church**
- **demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church**
- **responding to God's activity in the world through service to others**
- **living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life**
- **working in the world for peace, justice, freedom and human fulfillment**



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The church universal consists of all persons in every nation who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and commit themselves to live in a fellowship under his rule.

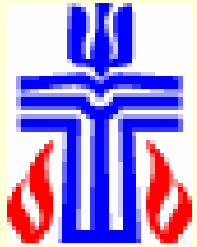
The particular church is, therefore, understood as a local expression of the universal church



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Our Mission and our Purpose are expressed in the Great Ends of the Church

- ✦ The Proclamation of the Gospel for the salvation of humankind
- ✦ The Shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
- ✦ The maintenance of Divine Worship

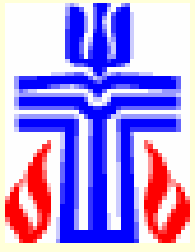


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⊕ The Preservation of the Truth

⊕ The Promotion of social
righteousness

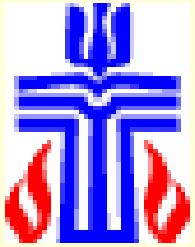
⊕ And the Exhibition of the Kingdom
of Heaven to the world



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The Essential Tenets of the Presbyterian
Church:

1. The Trinity
2. The Incarnation
3. Faith Alone for Salvation
4. Scriptures Alone for Authority
5. Sovereignty of God



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6. Election (God Calls & We respond)
7. Covenant Life (Promises made & kept)
8. Stewardship of Creation (time, talents & Treasures)
9. Sin destroys our relationship with God and each other (mankind is sinful and needs a savior)
10. Obedience to God's Word



Tenets of the Presbyterian Church

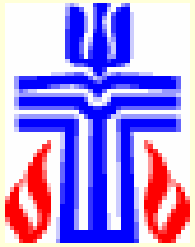
1. Mystery of the Trinity (catholic & essential)

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

2. Mystery of the Incarnation (catholic & essential)

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Tenets of the Presbyterian Church

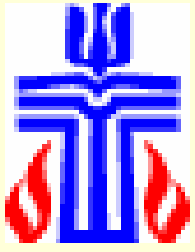
3. Justification by Faith (Protestant & Essential)

Romans 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

4. Authority of Scripture (Protestant & Essential)

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



Tenets of the Presbyterian Church

5. The Sovereignty of God (Reformed & Essential)

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God,

6. Election of the Saints (Reformed & Essential)

I Thes 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; 4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance;

1 John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.



Tenets of the Presbyterian Church

7. Covenant Community (Presbyterian & Distinctive)

Hebrews 8:10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." 13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear

8. Faithful Stewards (Presbyterian & Distinctive)

Matthew 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.



Tenets of the Presbyterian Church

9. Must avoid Sin of Idolatry (Presbyterian & Distinctive)

Romans 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools
23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made
to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24
Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts
to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one
another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and
worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who
is forever praised. Amen.

10. Seeking Justice & living in Obedience (Presbyterian & Distinctive)

I Cor 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not
boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not
easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not
delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects,
always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never
fails.

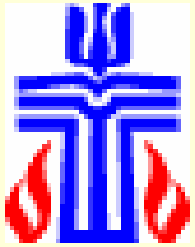
John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.



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The Presbyterian Church gets its name from the type of polity or church government that is described in the scriptures: as a government ruled by elders...

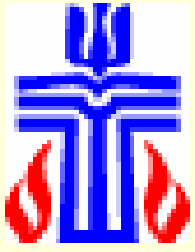
presbuteros *pres-boo'-ter-os*



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One becomes a member of the church by professing “Faith in Jesus Christ and accepting his Lordship in all of life.”

To be an officer in the church one must profess in the essential tenets of our faith and promise to be guided by them in making decisions for the church.



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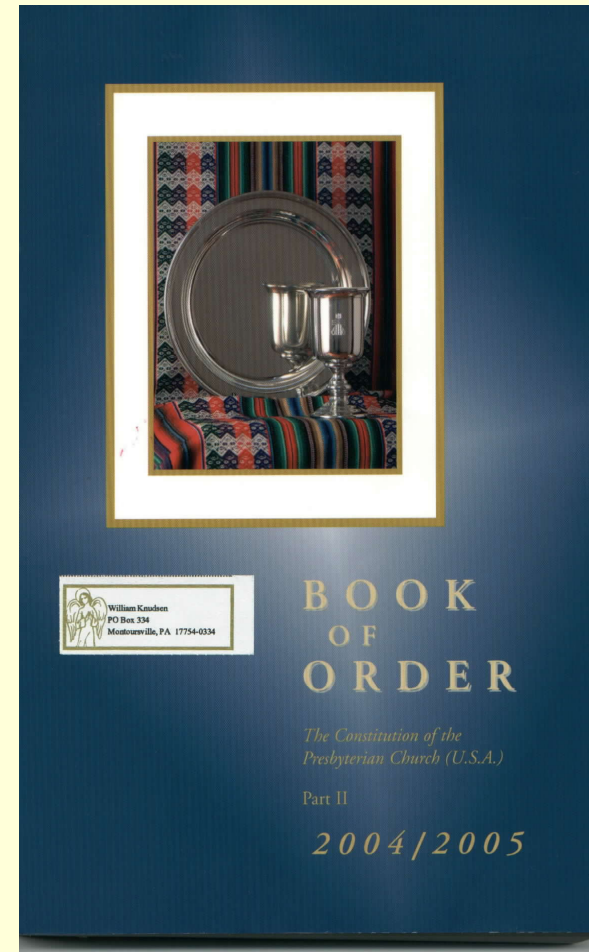
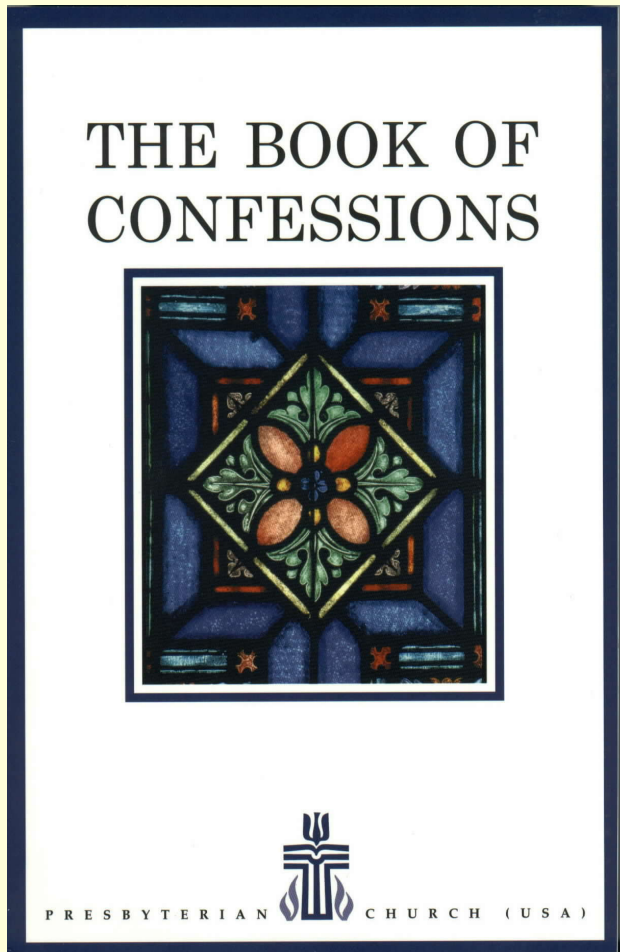
The Presbyterian Church is a connectional church—it is a part of the communion of reformed churches. Our motto is:

“The church reformed and always reforming”

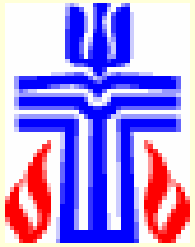
The chief work of God is to bring order and wholeness out of Chaos



Q: What two books make up the constitution of the Presbyterian Church?



Executive Presbyter: Wm. Knudsen



Confessions/Creeds

- The Nicene Creed 4th C.
- The Apostles Creed 2nd C.
- The Scots Confession 1560
- The Heidelberg Catechism 1563
- The Second Helvetic Confession 1566
- The Westminster Confession 1647
- The Shorter Catechism 1647
- The Larger Catechism 1647
- The Barmen Declaration 1934
- The confession of 1967 1967
- Brief Statement of Faith 1991



What is the difference between a Creed, a Confession, and a Catechism?

- 2 Creeds = What We Believe
- 4 Confessions = Why we Believe
(who we are as we interpret Scripture)
- 3 Catechisms = A study of What we believe by asking questions and providing answers
- 2 Statements of Faith = declarations



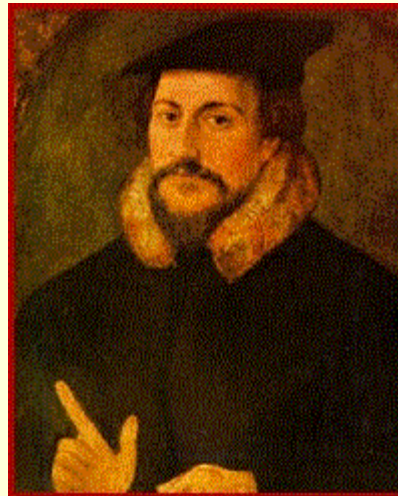
Outline of Membership Class

The Membership Class is made up of four one hour classes:

- Class two: History
 - Watch Video on History and Tradition & go over History booklet
 - Founder: John Calvin
 - What is Reformed theology
 - How many Presbyterian Denominations are there?
 - How many Presbyterians in the world?



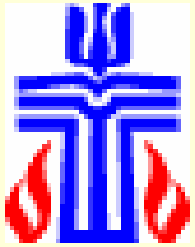
The Presbyterian Church is a church born out of the fires of the reformationand under the leadership of a French Lawyer by the name of John Calvin...who believed that the reformation of the church was essential if we were to get back to the Bible as the sole authority of the Church.





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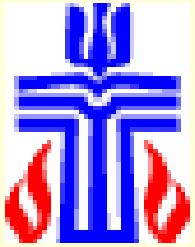
- ⊕ The Teaching Elders are ordained to the ministry of preaching the Word and administering the sacraments
- ⊕ The Ruling Elders are ordained to the ministry of governing and equipping the church for ministry and mission



What is Reformed Theology?

Reformed has been used for centuries to designate one of the four major streams of the Protestant Reformation: Lutheran, Anabaptist, Anglican, and Reformed. In this narrower sense, Reformed churches are those bodies that grew out of the Reformation in Switzerland, following the spiritual and intellectual lead of Huldrych Zwingli in Zurich and John Calvin in Geneva.

The Reformed family of churches and their shared tradition are not named after their founder (as in Lutheran), or a distinguishing practice (as in Baptist), or the location of their establishment (as in Anglican). But why are these churches and the tradition they embody called Reformed?



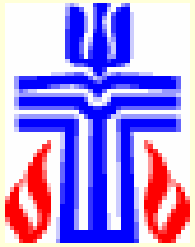
Reformed and Always Reforming

Churches in the Reformed tradition are churches that are “reformed and always to be reformed (ecclesia reformata semper reformanda) according to the word of God.” Reformed churches know that God has reformed the church and that God will continue to reform the church. Reform of the church is not mere change, however, and certainly not “modernization.” Reform of the church comes from the leading of God’s word, made present in the power of the Spirit.



Reformed Theology....

- God's Sovereignty (Solo Die)
- The Holy Trinity
- The Incarnation of Jesus (Solo Christus)
- Jesus is the head of the Church
- The Authority of Scripture (Solo Scriptura)
- Saved by Faith not Works (Solo Fide)
- Saved by God's Grace (Solo Grati)
- The Priesthood of all Believers



Presbyterian Denominations

- PCUSA 2.3 Million
- PCA 200,000
- Cumberland 150,000
- Cumberland US 20,000
- Associate Reformed 40,000
- Bible Presbyterian 10,000
- Orthodox Presbyterian 20,000
- Reformed Presbyterian 6,000



Presbyterians Around the World

- USA 3,700,000
- Korea 2,094,000
- Canada 1,300,000
- Australia 800,000

- World wide: 99 million follow the Reformed (Presbyterian) faith



Outline of Membership Class

The Membership Class is made up of four one hour classes:

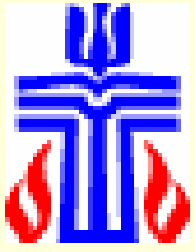
- Class Three: Polity
 - Watch Video on Polity
 - General Assembly
 - Synod
 - Session
 - What kind of members do we have?
 - What are the privileges of Membership?



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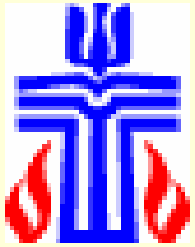
The Local congregation alone selects its pastors whom the Presbytery examines, approves and installs.

Local church representatives (commissioners) also vote on any change affecting the whole Presbyterian Church



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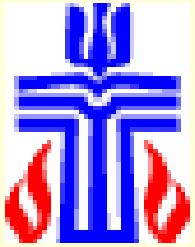
In the Presbyterian Polity
or Governance the
people and elected
leaders share authority
in major decisions
concerning the rule of
the church



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The church has four governing Bodies:

- ⊕ The Session (local)
- ⊕ The Presbytery (173)
- ⊕ The Synod (16)
- ⊕ The General Assembly (every two years)

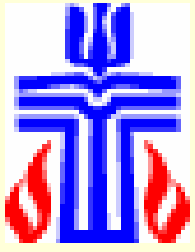


Levels of Government

General Assembly

Meets every two years and is composed of elders and ministers from 16 Synods.

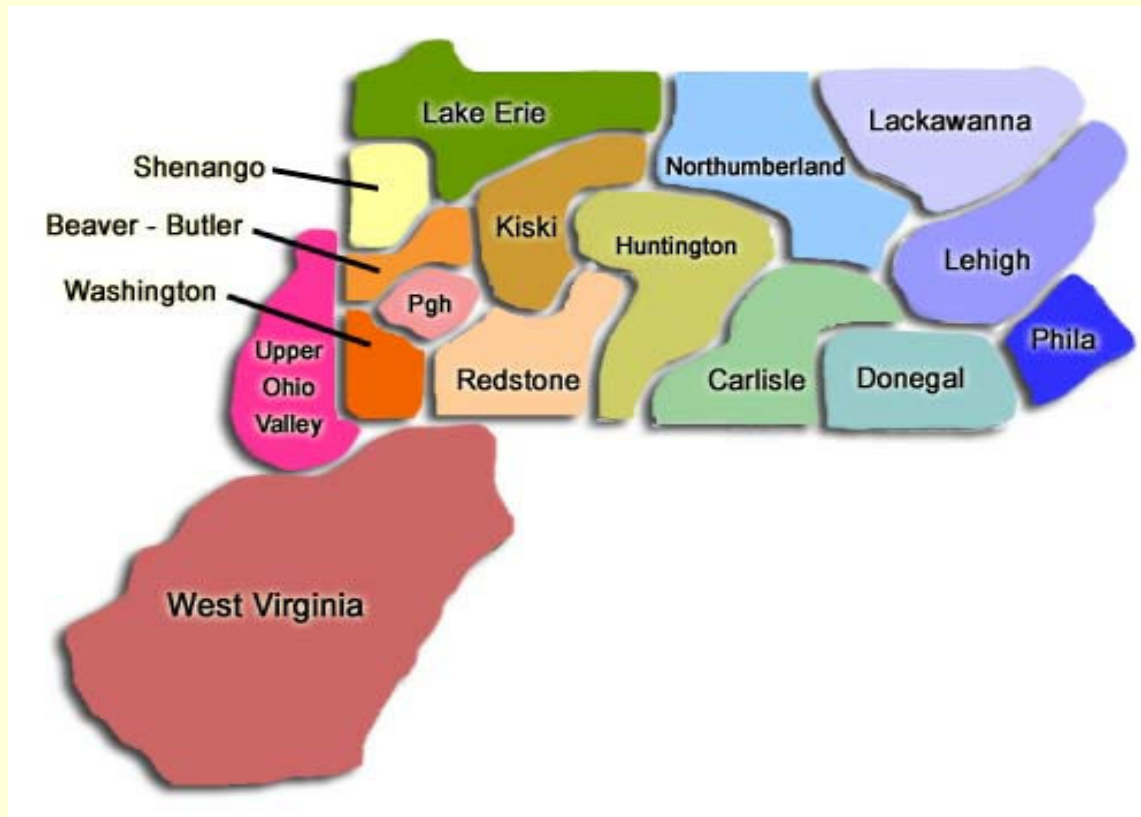




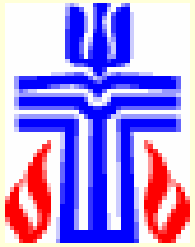
Levels of Government

The Synod of The Trinity: meets three times a year and is made up of ministers and elders from 16 presbyteries

Churches
1,311
Members
280,087



Executive Presbyter: Wm. Knudsen



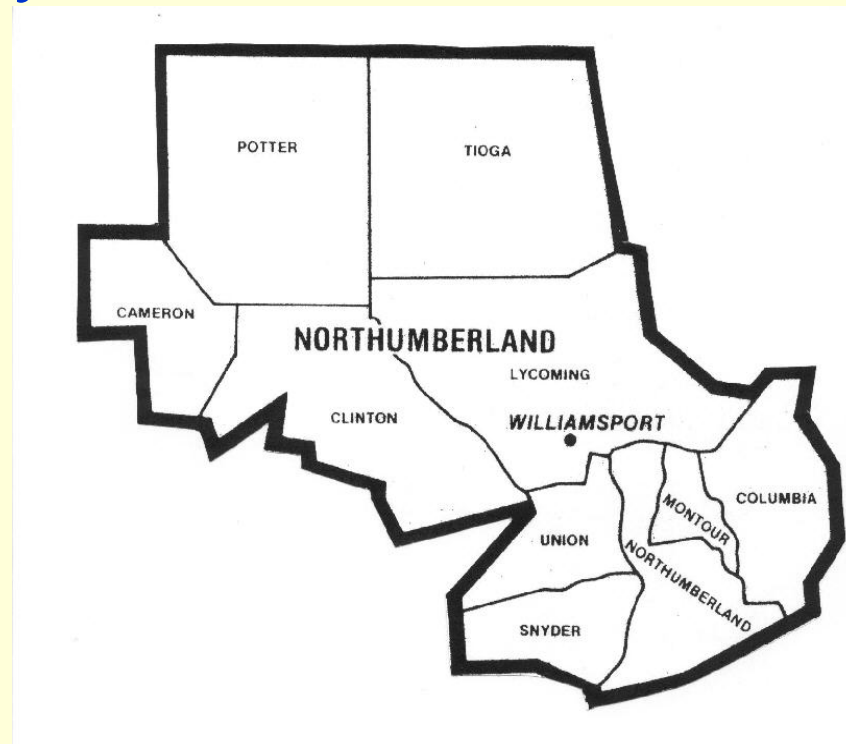
Levels of Government

Northumberland Presbytery meets 4 times a year

56 Ministers

45 Churches

5345 Members



Executive Presbyter: Wm. Knudsen



Membership Rolls

- Active
- Inactive
- Baptized
- Affiliate



Privileges of Membership G-5.0202

An active member of a particular church is a person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, has been baptized, has been received into membership of the church, has voluntarily submitted to the government of this church, and participates in the church's work and worship. An active member is entitled to all the rights and privileges of the church, including the right to participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, to present children for baptism, to take part in meetings of the congregation, and to vote and hold office. Other conditions of active membership that meet the needs of the particular church and are consistent with the order and confessions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may be adopted by the session after careful study and discussion with the congregation.



What does membership Mean?

- Discovering your Spiritual Gifts
- Using Your Spiritual Gifts
- Sharing your Spiritual Gifts

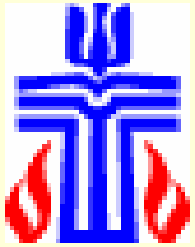
- Stewardship of
 - Time
 - Talents
 - Treasurer



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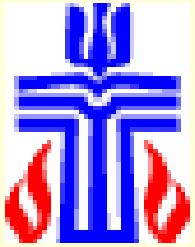
- Class Four: Sacraments
 - Watch Video on Vision and Mission or The People
 - The Sacraments
 - Baptism
 - The Lord's Supper



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The Presbyterian Church
celebrates two
sacraments:

Baptism & Communion
(the Lord's Supper)



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Baptism: The Sign of belonging to God

The Presbyterian Church
allows the individual to
choose the mode of baptism:

Immersion

Pouring

Sprinkling





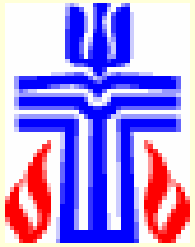
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What does Baptism Do?

It is an outward Sign or symbol of
an inward state of God's
Grace....



In Baptism the Holy Spirit marks
us as God's own—and enables
us to accept God's forgiveness
through repentance.



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We are not saved through the
Baptismal Act, but rather through our
Faith in the sacrificial Death of Jesus
Christ.

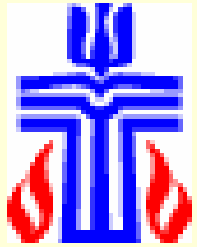


In our Baptism we receive the gift of the
Holy Spirit and enter into a new life,
new family, and new love based on
Christ. We become apart of God's
kingdom.



Baptism:

- ⊕ **Is given only once**
- ⊕ **Initiates us into the Body of Christ**
- ⊕ **Starts us on the road to God**
- ⊕ **Marks our receiving of the Holy Spirit (Sealed) Eph 1:13**



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Infants are Baptized in the Presbyterian Church:

- ✘ **Baptism is a seal confirming and ratifying God's promise in the Word to save.**
- ✘ **Infant baptism does not accomplish salvation or free the child from original sin**
- ✘ **Rather, it sets the infant on the right path toward repentance, conversion, and personal faith, a path that takes place within God's covenant community, the church**
- ✘ **The Reformed tradition has insisted that the child is baptized into future faith and repentance (in the same way that circumcision was a sign of repentance).**





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The Lord's Supper:

The Reformed Tradition believes that
the Sacrament of Holy Communion:

- ⊕ Commemorates Jesus perfect Sacrifice on our behalf
- ⊕ It renews our fellowship with other Christians
- ⊕ It enables us to experience the saving power of God's Love through Christ.

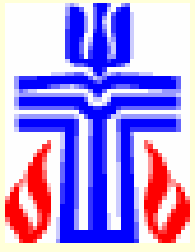


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⊕ It nourishes our faith in
the deepest possible way.

⊕ The sacrament provides
us with a never—ending
source of spiritual
nourishment and growth in
grace.





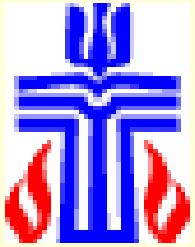
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The Lord's Supper:

**The elements are symbols of the
Blood and Body of Christ.**

Christ is present spiritually





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Who May Share in the Lord's Supper?



⊕ **The Faithful...All who confess
Jesus as Lord and Savior and
have been baptized into the
community of Faith**



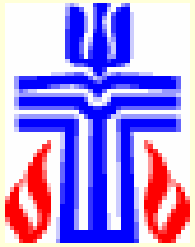
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Who Administers the Sacrament?

⊕ **An Ordained Minister of the church presides at all celebrations of the Sacraments and with special permission for some elders and Commissioned Lay Pastors.**



⊕ **Elders, deacons, may assist in the distribution of the elements & non-ordained lay people pre-approved by the session w-3.3616d**



The Lord's Supper:

- ⊕ Is given regularly**
- ⊕ Affirms and renews our Life with Christ**
- ⊕ Sustains our growth on the Journey toward God**
- ⊕ Assures us of the Holy Spirit's ongoing presence in our lives**



Question and Answer Time

- What do Presbyterians believe about...?
 - Predestination
 - Election of Saints
 - The Second Coming
 - Abortion
 - The Scriptures



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