

REXMONT EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

328 REXMONT ROAD LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA 17042

Approved by Ministry Council August 2021

Official Rexmont E.C. Church Membership Policy

Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church is a Christ-centered community striving to demonstrate the love of God as we grow together, connect with others and serve.

We, the members of the Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church, in order to maintain our organization in accordance with the DISCIPLINE of the Evangelical Congregational Church, and to promote the spiritual and earthly development of our members, do establish and adopt the following policy concerning membership for our congregation.

Membership Defined

Who Is a Member: A member shall be any person who has been received into the church fellowship in accordance with the DISCIPLINE of the Evangelical Congregational Church (321 Membership) and whose name is recorded on the “Official Roll of Membership” of Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church (DISCIPLINE 321.1).

Good Standing Defined: A member in good standing is a person who lives in harmony with the Evangelical Congregational Church DISCIPLINE and who demonstrates a heartfelt need to be part of this family of God called Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church. It would be anticipated that a person who seeks membership would, by definition, actively seek to affiliate with the local church through attendance in public worship services, be involved in discipleship, through participation in Holy Communion, and by contributing to the support of the local congregation both financially and through service. Membership reflects a person’s willingness to take ownership of the local church as well as a personal commitment to the work of the local church (DISCIPLINE 321.6).

Process of Membership Application: All persons seeking membership in Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church should show their interest, determination, and sincerity through regular attendance in the worship services for at least three months prior to their application for church membership.

All recommendations for church membership must be submitted to the Ministry Council for approval. The Pastor, in consultation with the Ministry Council, must examine all applicants for church membership (DISCIPLINE 321.3).

Applicants will be received into membership under one of the following conditions:

- a. **PROFESSION OF FAITH:** Of paramount importance to active participation in this local family of believers, the applicant shall be received in accordance with the all the explicit Statements of Faith outlined with the Public Declaration of Purpose (DISCIPLINE 321.2). All perspective members who are to be received by PROFESSION OF FAITH will be requested to take instruction in the faith and practice of the Evangelical Congregational Church.

- b. **LETTER OF TRANSFER:** A person may be received from another Evangelical Congregational Church upon presentation of a letter of transfer as a member in good standing from his/her sending church.

A person from another denomination may be received upon presentation of a Letter of Transfer as a member in good standing from his/her church. Such a person shall be required to take instruction in the faith and practice of the Evangelical Congregational Church, and to restate his/her vows in public worship by publicly answering the questions contained within The Statement of Faith (Reception of Members DISCIPLINE 321.5).

Membership Instruction Class: In preparation for church membership, all perspective members shall receive instruction. The official catechetical manual, *The E.C. Link*, of the Evangelical Congregational Church shall be employed as the basis of the instruction.

Regular attendance in all classes is required. Also, regular attendance in the morning worship service during the period of instruction is mandatory.

Upon completion of the instruction, all recommendations for church membership must be submitted to the Ministry Council for approval. After approval by the Ministry Council, such persons will be received into membership of the church by Profession of Faith.

Upon Separation: Any member in good standing desiring to transfer his/her membership to another church will, upon his/her request, be given a certificate of membership by the pastor and transferred to the new church. A certificate of membership and transfer cannot be denied a member in good standing, as determined by the Ministry Council (DISCIPLINE 321.7.3). This person will subsequently be removed from the Official Roll of the Rexmont E.C. Church.

Removal from the Membership Roll Through Church Discipline: The Ministry Council may, upon their discretion, remove any member who has not adhered to the DISCIPLINE of the Evangelical Congregational Church. Such removal should only be undertaken after all facts have been collected, the person of concern interviewed. (DISCIPLINE 601-603).

The Roll Reviewed: The Membership roll of Rexmont Evangelical Church must be reviewed at least once every year to ensure that it is up-to-date so that the church membership number provided to the Denomination in the Annual Report is accurate. Removal from the Official Roll could be undertaken due to the inability of the local church to locate the residence of the member (DISCIPLINE 321.7.2.1), when it is discovered that member has associated with another church (DISCIPLINE 321.7.2.2), or when a member has moved his or her residence to another locality that is of such a distance as to preclude active ongoing participation (DISCIPLINE 321.7.2.3). Under any of the above circumstances, when a person has failed to participate in worship or any other church functions for a period of at least six (6) months, a written notice shall be sent to the person's last known address advising the person of the person's lapse of membership (DISCIPLINE 321.7.2.4)

A Statement of Understanding

The leadership of Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church recognizes, adheres to, and supports the DISCIPLINE of The Evangelical Congregational Church. Within this specific covenantal context, Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church seeks to exist under the guidelines for membership as recorded in the DISCIPLINE of the greater church. In doing so, the local church agrees that the "membership of a local congregation consists of those persons whose names are recorded in the Official Church Record Book." (DISCIPLINE 324.1.1) As well, it is agreed that the local church agrees that "each congregation is the sole

custodian of its membership records, and it alone can determine all questions that may be raised concerning the accuracy thereof and the identity of persons, pursuant to the provision of the DISCIPLINE.” (324.1.2)

Conditions for Membership in Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church

1. Each has publicly stated that they are sinful and are unable to make themselves right in God’s eyes.
2. Each has publicly stated that that they have found eternal salvation through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. Each has publicly stated that in addition to proclaiming Jesus Christ as their Savior, they also profess Him to be the Lord of their life.
4. Each has publicly professed a deep desire to permit Jesus Christ to transform their lives into His perfect image.
5. Each has publicly stated that they hold a profound desire to grow in grace as they participate in daily prayer and Biblical study.
6. Each has publicly stated a desire to associate with the Rexmont Evangelical Church in membership through worship attendance, discipleship, participation in Holy Communion, financial contributions, service opportunities, and active encouragement of others within the church.
7. Each has publicly stated they are baptized.