

Requirement for Membership (Parish Paper Cynthia "Woolever (oct. 2008 vol 16, Number 10)

Seven member expectations are communicated by healthy, effective congregations: (in no particular order)

1. Commitment to spiritual growth: (via Bible study, prayer groups, discussion groups, personal study/learning groups) Groups are important because they encourage accountability, support, and encouragement.
2. Commitment to financial support. Giving should be planned, proportionate to available resources, systematic and shared with JOY.
3. Commitment to worship with others. Regular attendance!
4. Commitment to the congregation's mission and vision. Members commit to the church's present and future by doing what they are best gifted to do. (nominating committees must do more than fill empty slots with warm bodies>)
5. Commitment to the needs of the wider community and the world. We are not just here for ourselves and our fellow congregants!
6. Commitment to hospitality
7. Commitment to prayer: for the congregation, its leaders, the community, nation and world.

#s 2, 3, and 5 are more about "doing" church. You can do church, and be somewhat emotionally detached.

Don't be a CAVE dweller: Consistently Against Virtually Everything.

How many %-wise are committed to all these expectations?

How do our activities and programs reflect and support our expectations of our members. How may we change??

How well do we explain these commitments to potential members, to current members (so that they might grow in all these areas?)

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