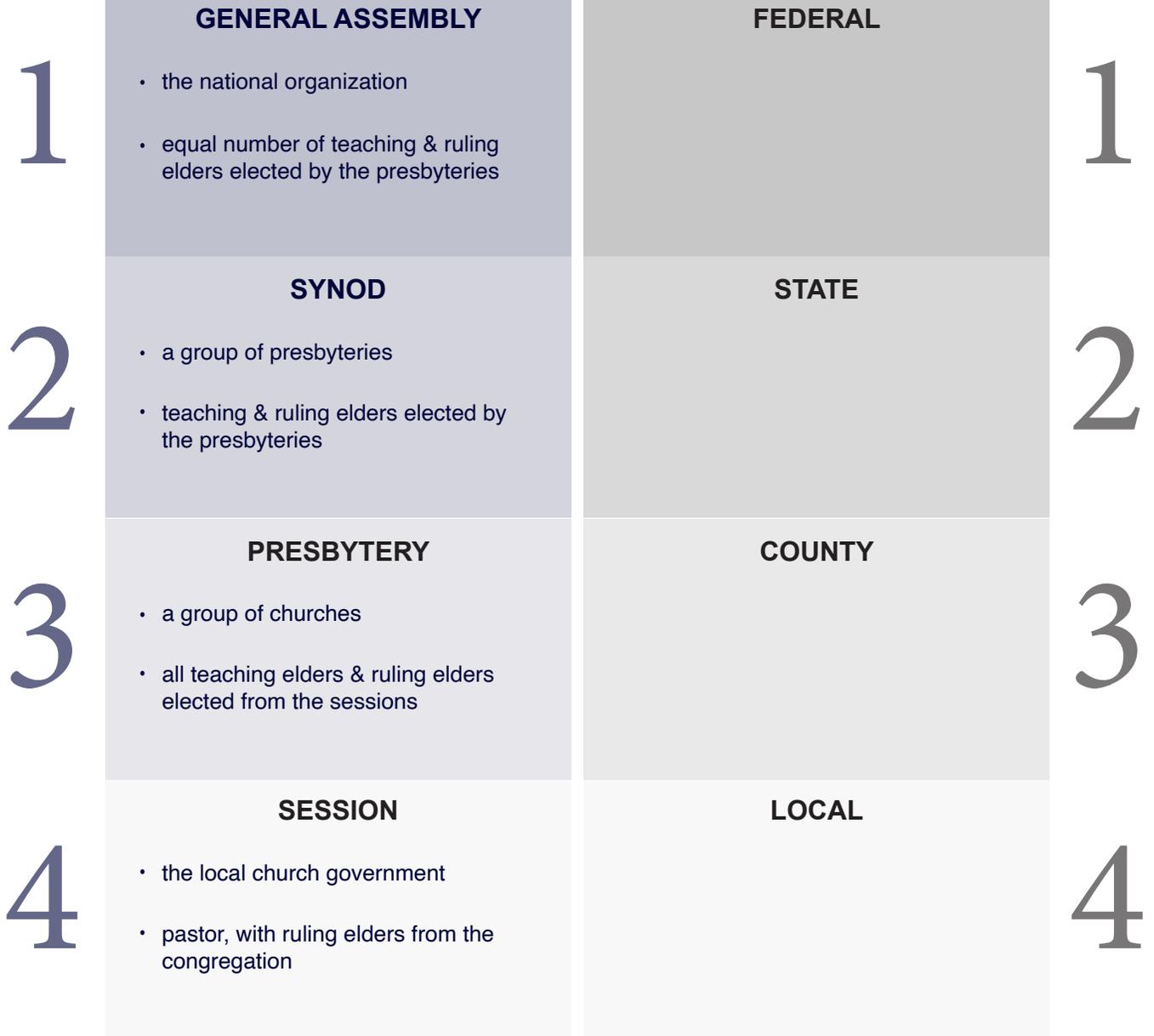




MEMBERSHIP



The Presbyterian Church, USA



- There are FOUR levels of government in the Presbyterian Church. They are called COUNCILS.
- The government of the Presbyterian Church is a REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY.
- The principles of government in the Presbyterian Church in America were formed around 1786.



SESSION (Elders)

- has authority over everything that happens in a church
- the **MINISTERS OF WORD & SACRAMENT AND ELDERS** are members of Session

PASTORS

- elected by the congregation to be its leaders and representatives

DEACONS

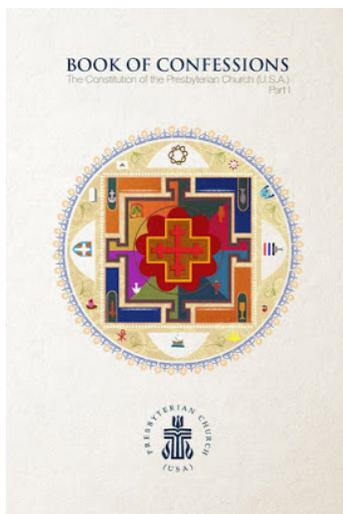
- elected to take care of the needs of the people

- Teaching & Ruling Elders, and Deacons are **ORDAINED**
- a special ordination ceremony takes place that shows they are set apart for special work in the church (G-2.04)

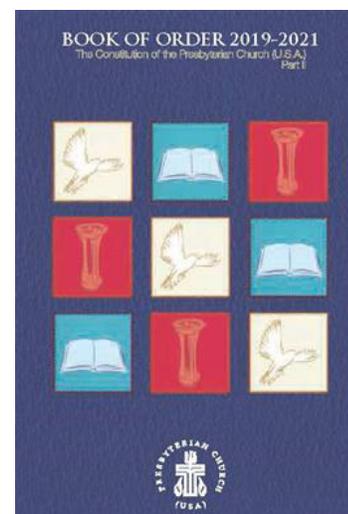
CONGREGATION

- all members of a church

CONSTITUTION OF THE PC(USA)



BOOK OF CONFESSIONS



BOOK OF ORDER



Being a Presbyterian: The Basics

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

- 1.6 million members, with nearly 10 thousand congregations and worshiping communities.
- Presbuteros: a Greek term for elder used 72 times in the New Testament.

ORDAINED OFFICERS

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

- Called by the congregation
- Members of the Session
- Preach, teach, lead worship, perform sacraments, wedding, and funerals

Ruling Elders

- Elected by the congregation for three year terms
- Charged to seek, discover and carry out the will of Christ in the church
- Elected and ordained to exercise leadership, government, and discipline together with Ministers of Word and Sacrament as the Session of a particular congregation

Deacons

- Elected by the congregation for three year terms
- Under the authority of Session
- Duties include: ministering to those in need, visiting the sick, and concern for all in distress

SACRAMENTS

Sacraments are signs of the real presence and power of Christ in the Church and symbols of God's action. Through the sacraments, God seals believers in redemption, renews their identity of the people of God, and marks them for service.

Baptism

The sign and seal of inclusion in God's grace and covenant with the Church signifying: the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, spiritual rebirth, being clothed in Christ, and adopted into the covenant family of God.

Lord's Supper (Eucharist, Communion)

At the Lord's table, the Church remembers what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, communes with the risen Lord, and is sealed and empowered to serve Christ in the world.



Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith

Triune God

God has been revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who are distinct “persons” and yet at the same time one God. The Trinity shows us that our lives are meant to be relational.

Jesus Christ

The *incarnation* is a term to affirm that the Son of God became human in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, a Palestinian Jew who was both fully human and fully divine. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is called the *atonement*, enabling God and humanity to be “at-one” through the sinless offering of Jesus. Jesus Christ was bodily resurrected on the third day as the “first fruits” of the coming Kingdom of God. All who put their trust in the risen Christ are promised eternal life.

Sovereignty of God

Central to this tradition is the affirmation of the majesty, holiness and providence of God who creates, sustains, rules and redeems the world in the freedom of sovereign righteousness and love.

Saved by Grace through Faith

Through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, God’s grace was extended to humanity to bring salvation. Through Christ, we have a restored relationship with God. We are called by God’s grace (2 Tim. 1:9), “saved” by God’s grace (Eph. 2:5-9), “justified” by grace (Rom. 3:24; Titus 3:7), and given gifts by God’s grace (Rom. 12:6) to be used in the church for the common good (1 Cor. 12:4-11).

Election

We do not choose God, but God chooses us for service as well as for salvation. There is nothing that we can do to earn God’s favor; our salvation comes as a gift of grace from God alone. We are able to choose God because God first chose us.

Priesthood of All Believers

By virtue of their baptisms, all Christians are ordained in Christian ministry and have gifts for the building up of the church.

Scripture

Presbyterians affirm that the Bible is the Word of God because we believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are God’s self-revelation and witness to Jesus Christ. Scripture is set apart, unique, sacred and holy; therefore it is regarded as the ultimate authority for the church.

OUR VISION

We aspire to be a church where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is faithfully proclaimed and faithfully lived in grateful response to God's love.

LIVING AS A CHURCH FAMILY

We are members of the body of Christ who strive to be a welcoming family of faith, extending hospitality to all, and loving, supporting and forgiving one another as Christ does for us.

GROWING AS DISCIPLES

We are followers of Jesus Christ who seek to grow in our faith by worshiping together joyfully, studying God's word, abiding in prayer, and obeying Jesus' commands.

Jesus Christ
is
Lord

SERVING IN GOD'S MISSION

We are witnesses for Jesus Christ who participate in his ministry by proclaiming the good news, sharing our gifts and resources, and reaching out to those in

OUR MISSION

• LIVING AS A CHURCH FAMILY •

Love and support are at the heart of our fellowship. Visiting each other, enjoying a meal together, or lending a helping hand -- it all makes the world a smaller place and helps us to get to know each other better.

*Children's Activities
Fun Outings & Gatherings
Family Dinners
Music Concerts
Retreats
Congregational Care*

• GROWING AS DISCIPLES •

At SPC you'll find Christ-centered teaching on how Biblical principles guide our lives. Whether it's during a Sunday service, engaging in small groups, joining one of our choirs or Bible studies -- there is something for everyone!

*Worship Services
Sunday Morning Classes
Bible Studies
Children & Youth Groups
Musical Opportunities
Weekly Small Groups*

• SERVING IN GOD'S MISSION •

We have a BIG heart for mission! We offer numerous opportunities which help to impact the lives of others, find personal meaning and growth, and have a dynamic impact on our church, our community and the world.

*Volunteer Opportunities
Food & Meal Provisions
Mission Trip
Community Service
Refugee Resettlement
& much more!*



THE MEMBERSHIP OF A CONGREGATION

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 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. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 14-15)

The Meaning of Membership and Baptism

In Jesus Christ, God calls people to faith and to membership in the Church, the body of Christ. Baptism is the visible sign of that call and claim on a human life and of entrance into the membership of the church. In professing our belief in Jesus Christ, we accept God's gift of grace and the call to respond with faithfulness. Thus, the triune God, incarnate in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, gives to the Church not only its mission but also its understanding of membership.

Life Together

As a congregation, we welcome all to come and worship God together as a community. We affirm that the Gospel leads the Church to extend the fellowship of Christ to all people. Failure to do so constitutes a rejection of Christ himself and causes a scandal to the Gospel. Our hope is that together we will be able to edify one another in faith, supporting one another, and joining together to see God's will done in our lives.

Becoming a Member

Choosing to become a member of the congregation means more than attending worship; it is an active embrace of who God is calling you to be and living out that call together. Membership in the Church means being connected together in our hopes, fears, needs, blessings, and calling. To be a member means to be actively involved in the life of the church and in the kingdom of God. To join the church, one must publicly profess their faith after being examined by the session about the meaning and responsibilities of membership. If one hasn't already been baptized, the person making their profession of faith shall be baptized. In other cases, one may join by transferring their membership from another church or by reaffirming their faith.

During the New Member Reception in the worship service, we will invite you to stand before the congregation and answer the following questions which capture the fundamentals of what it means to publicly profess one's faith in Jesus and desire to become a member:

- Do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? "I do."
- Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? "I do."
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? "I will."

The Ministry of Members

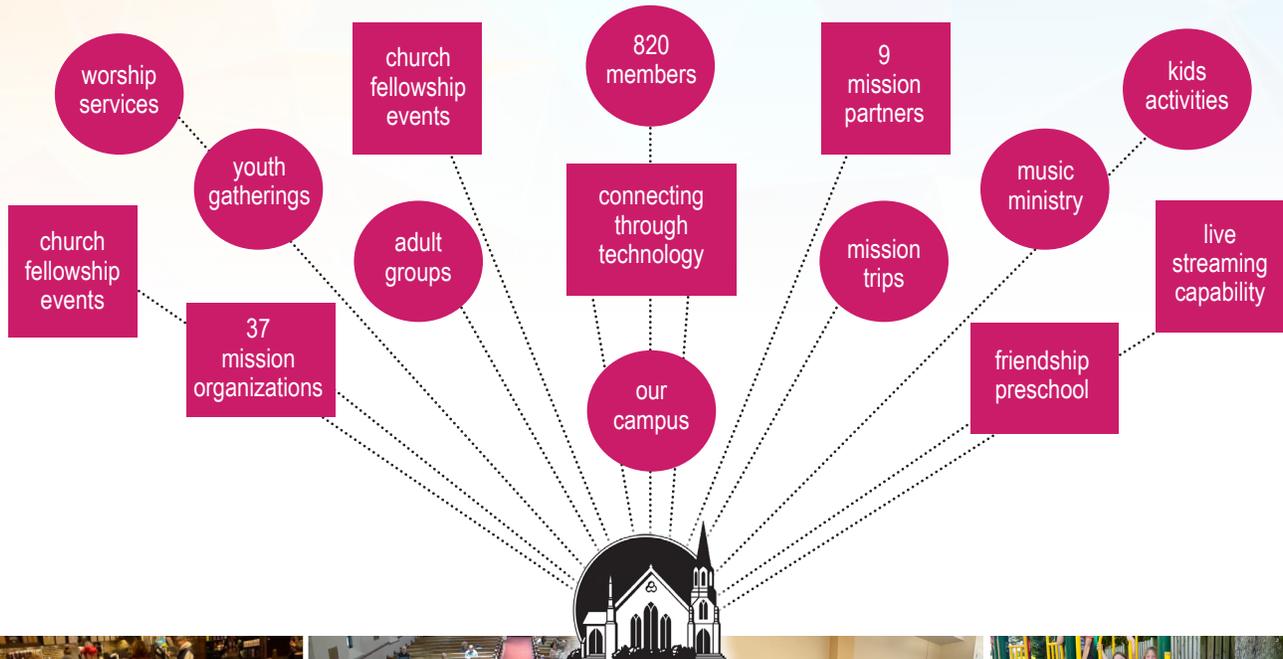
The Church is one body made up of many members, each bringing unique gifts. Joining the Church means committing to Christ's mission—bearing witness to God's love and grace through worship, service, and community life. Together, we proclaim the good news in word and deed, worship and pray, care for one another, study Scripture, give our time, talents, and resources, serve others, seek justice and peace, live faithfully in all areas of life, steward creation, help lead and nurture the Church, and reflect on how our shared life and worship can grow in this season.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is about taking care of something we value and enabling it to grow. When we become stewards, we take responsibility and contribute our time, talent and treasure to support our church.

Your contributions directly impact the ministries of our church by providing a place to gather for worship, classes and groups, enabling us to serve together in mission, and giving us all the ability to share the good news of Christ.

Check out all the areas your Stewardship giving reaches:



WE ARE A PLEDGING CHURCH

A pledge is a specific amount of money that you commit to give for the year. We use the sum of our total pledges to determine our annual budget, which funds our various programs and ministries. The heart of Stewardship is about planning how we use our resources carefully. This is why pledging is so important. Without pledges, it's difficult to plan.

THREE WAYS TO MAKE A PLEDGE

1. Fill out a pledge card & mail it to the church office.
2. Visit sewickleypresby.org/give to find an online pledge form.
3. Scan the QR code to make your pledge online.





CHURCH-WIDE ACTIVITIES _____

One of our core values is having an intergenerational community, and in pursuit of that we have lots of programs and activities for our entire church family. There are Bible studies, book groups, shared meals, special worship services, mission projects, and more.

YOUTH PROGRAMS _____

Our Youth Ministries involve students in 6-12th grade and we have opportunities every week for students to connect and grow in faith and community. From Bible Studies and youth group to Sunday School classes and Confirmation, there are opportunities for students of all ages to come together and build connections. We also have Lock-ins, retreats, and camps throughout the year to offer opportunities for students to get away and explore their faith in new environments.

WORSHIP & MUSIC _____

Participating in worship together is what it means to be a community, but there are all kinds of ways to participate in worship beyond attending. We need help on our welcome team of ushers, with our tech team to help with the sound or running slides in the services, and with our children's programs. Or if you're musically inclined, consider joining our Praise Team at 9 AM and Choir at 11 AM. You could also get involved with our handbell choir or help get involved with the liturgy during the services. There are plenty of ways for us all to use our gifts in during worship, and we'd love to help you get plugged in.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE (CCM) _____

Being a church community means caring for one another. As Paul says, we "bear one another's burdens," rejoicing and suffering together. Our CCM team is made up of members called to serve through prayer, visits, activities, and conversation.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY _____

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Our children's ministry creates regular opportunities for kids to do just that. During worship, little ones enjoy a special children's sermon before heading to "children's church." We also offer weekly Sunday School, mid-week gatherings for 3rd-5th graders, and special events like VBS, the Fall Festival, Christmas Pageant, and more to help young families connect and grow.

MISSIONS _____

We partner with and support over 40 ministries that help with hunger ministries, housing needs, educational services, medical care, disaster relief, family care and services, international efforts, and fellowship organizations. 10% of our annual budget goes toward supporting these organizations, and all of the proceeds of our Day on the Lawn rummage sale goes toward supporting these organizations and ministries. Beyond these 40 organizations, there are other mission and service opportunities throughout the church that regularly occur for members of all ages and skills. There are weekly and monthly opportunities to serve with all kinds of ministries, and we would love for you to get involved!



We are happy you found us!

Thank you for taking time to learn more about our church and what membership looks like! We are excited to have you join our church family. Together we aspire to faithfully proclaim and faithfully live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in grateful response to God’s love. By the end of our time together, we hope you begin to sense ways in which God may be calling you to use your particular gifts and talents within the Kingdom of God. Whether you feel led to join in efforts and missions that already exist, or feel passionate about starting something new, we are looking forward to living, growing, and serving alongside you!

SPC & SUNDAYS

What to Expect



8 AM Service

We gather for this traditional service in our Chapel, where Communion is shared each week.



9 AM Service

Held in the sanctuary, this service features music by our Praise Team and monthly Communion on the first Sunday.



11 AM Service

This service in the Sanctuary features choir-led music and Communion on the first Sunday of each month.



10 AM DISCIPLESHIP HOUR

There are multiple ways to grow as disciples on Sunday mornings—whether you’re an adult, teen, or child.

- **Adults** gather to explore a variety of topics in different formats. Whether you’re looking to dive deep into Scripture, listen to a lecture with specialized speakers, or join a casual conversation, there’s something for everyone.
- **Middle School & High School Students** meet for age-specific discussions that help them grow in their faith and build community. We also offer Confirmation classes each year, typically for 9th grade students where they learn about the core tenants of our faith.
- **Kindergarten to 5th Grade kids** learn about Jesus through age-appropriate activities like Bible lessons and Children’s Choir.



CHILDCARE

Children from birth to age three are cared for by our warm and friendly staff in the Childcare Room throughout Sunday mornings.



SUMMER MONTHS

Our worship service schedule changes from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Check us out!



@sewickleypresby



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sewickleypresby.org



Sewickley Presbyterian Church

LIVE · GROW · SERVE

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