

Why Membership Is A Requirement To Serve In Ministry At ALCF

There are dozens of ministries at ALCF that collectively seek to win the lost to Christ, strengthen believers, and meet the needs of people. The elders and pastors of ALCF are responsible and accountable for the ministries of the church. To ensure that ministry happens in a way that reflects the vision, purpose, and values of the church, church membership is a requirement for anyone serving on the ministry team.

There is a distinction between serving in ministry, and receiving or participating in ministry. Those who serve in ministry are ministers who use their gifts, talents, and callings to give of themselves for the benefit of others. Conversely, participants in ministry receive or consume the services and blessings of those who serve in ministry.

Requiring church membership for service in ministry is primarily an issue of commitment and accountability. The elders and pastors of this church want to know that the people serving in ministry are committed to the vision of this church. That commitment is best expressed through church membership.

In addition to commitment, it is important that those who serve on the ministry team willingly submit themselves to the authority and accountability of the leadership of the church. Spiritual authority and accountability are important, because ministry team members represent the church to those they serve. If they are not accountable to the leadership, and are unwilling to submit to its authority, then the leadership is rendered incapable of fulfilling its responsibility for the quality and effectiveness of the ministry.

Exceptions To The Membership Requirement

College Students - there are many college students who attend this church while school is in session, but are members of a church in their hometown. If students who regularly attend ALCF would like to serve in ministry, they are exempt from the membership requirement due to the transitory nature of their commitment to the local area.

Job Circumstances – employees who are not residents of the Bay Area, but have jobs that require them to travel to and/or temporarily live in the Bay Area are exempt from the membership requirement.

“Behind the Scenes” – much of the work required in ministry takes place behind the scenes. Set up, break down, and related activities can be completed by non-members of ALCF.

Although there are these exceptions to the membership requirement, a profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and membership/regular attendance at a church other than ALCF is a requirement. In addition, direct oversight of non-members by ALCF ministry leadership must occur. This oversight will ensure that the activities completed by non-members are performed in a way that is consistent with the expectation for quality ministry at ALCF.