

Proposal for Membership Definitions and Yearly Dues

This document outlines a proposal for membership levels and responsibilities as well as proposed yearly fees for membership.

Having a clear definition of who is a member, who is affiliated, and who is ordained has been lacking in the PCA and a point of confusion. This is especially true when it comes to voting rights in the organization and being able to accept already ordained clergy without having to go through a second ordination process. We have also not charged yearly dues for our ordained ministers, affiliates, and members, which is standard practice for most organizations of our type. Clarifying our membership levels will help us in overall organization of the PCA, and yearly membership fees will allow for the PCA to have a consistent stream of income, offset ordination costs (background checks, printing and mailing of certificates, etc.), and give members a bigger sense of investment into the organization.

We have tried to keep the dues as modest as possible. For affiliation and ordination, we are assuming that we will find a reasonable background check website where the ordination and affiliate fee will cover the cost. Once this system is put into practice, the fees should be reviewed every year to balance the PCA's needs with the ability of our members and clergy to pay. It should also be stressed that no one should be turned down for ordination or affiliation for lack of funds, and hopefully the fact that others *can* pay yearly dues will help offset the costs for those who can't.

Definitions:

Lay Membership

- Fills out online form and agrees to PCA covenant.
- Submits \$10 via PayPal or by mail yearly.
- Has organizational voting rights.
- Is put on "progca" mailing list to receive news and information.
- Qualifies person for possibility of being on governing bodies of PCA

Clergy Affiliation (Affiliation is for clergy who are already ordained in another organization who wish to also be known as clergy in the PCA. Those who are in denominations that don't allow for dual affiliation should go through the regular PCA ordination process if they are willing to give up their prior affiliation.)

- Discusses needs and goals with local RSL.
- Fills out Affiliation form (not sure if we'll have this all online or via PDF) and checks "Affiliation" (this makes them members in discernment until the background check is complete).
- Agrees to PCA Covenant.
- Submits a one-time fee of \$50 (to cover background check). Pays annual credential fee of \$10. Pays for and submits background check bi-annually to receive "clergy in good standing" card and letter.
- Has organizational voting rights.

- Has all privileges that ordained PCA clergy (ie: chaplaincy stuff, etc.).
- Is put on “progca” mailing list to receive news and information.
- Is listed on PCA website as PCA clergy (unless they request not to be listed).
- Has privilege of wearing PCA stole.
- (Optional: maybe have a separate clergy mailing list?)
- Qualifies person for possibility of being on governing bodies of PCA

Church/Group Affiliation (These are groups led by ordained or affiliated PCA clergy that would like to be known as a PCA congregation.)

- Fills out Affiliation form.
- Congregation agrees to PCA Covenant
- Submits one-time membership fee, depending on size of organization (<25 members: \$25; >25 members: \$50), members of a church become Lay Members and have voting rights.
- Is listed on PCA website as an Affiliated Church/Group.
- Must inform PCA ASAP of any change of email, address, etc.
- Church groups have autonomy. Ministers of the church can ordain members as lay clergy to work within a congregation, but for those ministers to act with authority of the PCA, they must go through the PCA ordination process.

Ordained Clergy

- Fills out Affiliation Form, checks that they wish to be ordained, and agrees to PCA covenant (this makes them members who are in discernment for ordination).
- Goes through discernment with RSL to determine needs and goals.
- Fills out Ordination Form and pays one-time fee of \$50 (to cover initial background check, ordination certificate, and other costs).
- Pays annual credential fee of \$10. Pays for and submits background check bi-annually to receive “clergy in good standing” card and letter.
- Ordination Form goes to LC for approval with RSL’s recommendation letter.
- Once approved, clergy receives certificate and plans for their own ordination ceremony.
- Has organizational voting rights.
- Has privilege of wearing PCA stole.
- Has all privileges that ordained PCA clergy (ie: chaplaincy stuff, etc.).
- Is put on “progca” mailing list to receive news and information.
- Is listed on PCA website as PCA clergy (unless they request not to be listed).
- (Optional: maybe have a separate PCA clergy mailing list?)
- Qualifies person for possibility of being on governing bodies of PCA
- Must inform PCA ASAP of any change of email, address, etc.