

Peace Haven Baptist Church



What to Expect in Membership Class

Class

Covenant Membership class is an opportunity to learn more about the structure and beliefs of PHBC, and also a time for you to share your own salvation story.

- Beliefs
- Introduction to Structure and Leadership
- Sharing Your Story
- Explanation of Covenant Membership
- Getting Involved at Peace Haven
- Q&A

Sharing Your Story

Each individual will share their personal story of salvation with the group. Your testimony is authentic to you. This is not a full inventory of your life, it is an opportunity to express your journey to faith in Jesus.

Many people are concerned that their testimony is not *effective* or *dramatic* enough. God's grace is offered to people from all walks of life, and the reality is regardless of where we think we fall on the scale, we all need a Savior.

Some people are concerned because they can't remember the exact location, date, or time that they gave their life to Christ. Remember that our faith is not placed in an event, or even a prayer, but in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Be confident that God is with you and that he can use your story as a means of proclaiming the good news of the gospel.

To create a simple outline, ask yourself the following questions:

★ **Before Christ**

- What did my life *revolve* around?
- What *problems* did I have in my life?
- Where did I find *hope, security, or joy*?

★ **God's Pathway**

- What was my *initial* response to the gospel?
- When did I *embrace* the gospel?

★ **After**

- How has my life *changed*?
- What stories *illustrate* that change?

Next Steps

After class, the class leader will recommend you to the elders for church membership if they feel that is the next best step. The elders will present you before the church, where you will publicly enter into covenant membership, and be affirmed by the body.

Should you have further questions or concerns after the membership class, the class leader will set up a time to meet with you so those can be addressed.

Annual Covenant Renewal

All covenant members will be asked to affirm their membership annually through an online form and verbally in a worship celebration focused on covenant membership.

We will communicate the need for reaffirmation annually, and provide a paper option for those who are not able to complete the form online.

If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation process, this choice could be considered a voluntary withdrawal from membership.