

# The Membership Roll: Policies and Procedures

## **DEFINITION OF MEMBERSHIP** (2008 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 215)

The membership of a local United Methodist church shall include those who have been baptized and those who have professed their faith.

1. The baptized membership of a local United Methodist church shall include all baptized people who have received Christian baptism in the local congregation or elsewhere, or whose membership has been transferred to the local United Methodist church subsequent to baptism in some other congregation.
2. The professing membership of a local United Methodist church shall include all baptized people who have come into membership by profession of faith through appropriate services of the baptismal covenant in the ritual or by transfer from other churches.
3. For statistical purposes, church membership is equated to the number of people listed on the roll of professing members.
4. All baptized or professing members of any local United Methodist church are members of the worldwide United Methodist connection and members of the church universal.

## **MEMBERSHIP RECORDS** (2008 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 230)

1. Each local church shall accurately maintain a membership record for each baptized or professing member including:
  - a) person's name, date of birth, address, place of birth, date of baptism, officiating pastor, and sponsors;
  - b) date of confirmation/profession of faith, officiating pastor, and sponsors;
  - c) if transferred from another church, date of reception, sending church, and receiving pastor;
  - d) if transferred to another church, date of transfer, receiving church, and address of receiving church;
  - e) date of removal or withdrawal and reason;
  - f) date of restoration of professing membership and officiating pastor;
  - g) date of death, date and place of funeral/memorial, place of burial, and officiating pastor.
2. Annually, names of professing members to be removed by charge conference action shall be reported to the charge conference (¶ 228.2.b.4).
3. Constituency Roll, containing the names and addresses of such persons as are not members of the church concerned, including unbaptized children, youth and adults whose names are not on the membership record, and other nonmembers for whom the local church has pastoral responsibility (¶ 230.3).
4. Affiliate Membership Roll (¶ 227).
5. Associate Membership Roll (¶ 227).
6. In the case of a union or federated church with another denomination, the governing body of such a church may report an equal share of the total membership to each judicatory, and such membership shall be published in the minutes of each church, with a note to the effect that the report is that of a union or federated church, and with an indication of the total actual membership (¶ 230.6).

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND AUDIT** (2008 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 231)

The pastor shall report to the charge conference annually the names of persons received into the membership of the church or churches of the pastoral charge and the names of persons removed since the last charge conference, indicating how each was received or removed. The church council shall appoint a committee to audit the membership record, submitting the report annually to the charge conference.

## **PERMANENT RECORDS** (2008 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 233)

The basic membership records in each local church shall consist of a permanent church register and a card index, a loose-leaf book, or a membership record on an electronic information system (see ¶ 245).