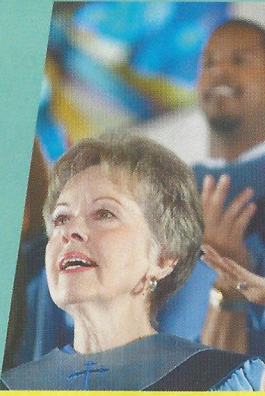


10 Ways to Be a Faithful Presbyterian



As a Presbyterian,

you are part of a centuries-old Protestant Christian community. The Presbyterian church is a representative democracy governed by leaders elected from and by the congregation.

You have an important role to play.

- ▶ Some church members are ordained for special leadership roles. They include teaching elders, ruling elders and deacons.
- ▶ Others fulfill roles such as teaching or providing music for worship. Still others help with activities such as oversight of church business or charitable work.
- ▶ But *all* members make up the church's ministry. It takes everyone to help the church stay strong in carrying out God's work in our world.



Presbyterianism emphasizes that all members should take an active part. **Here are 10 ways to do this...**

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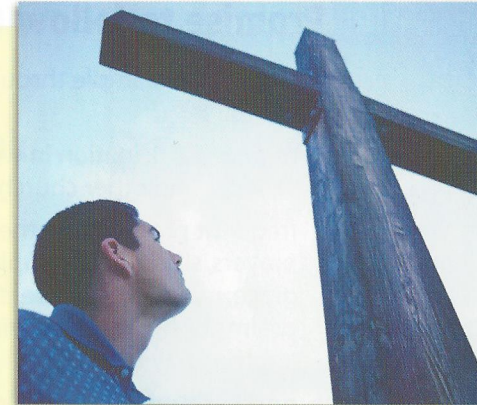
10 WAYS TO BE A FAITHFUL PRESBYTERIAN

1

Know and confess (openly declare) your beliefs.

These include our beliefs that:

- ▶ God exists as the Trinity—the Father (Creator of the universe), the Son (Jesus Christ our Savior) and the Holy Spirit (God's presence in each of us and in our world).
- ▶ The Church is a universal company of Christ's followers. No Christian church solely embodies the Church that Christ authorized.
- ▶ The life, death and resurrection of Jesus teach us the ways of God and give us forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
- ▶ Through God's gift of grace, we gain the faith needed for our salvation. The souls of the faithful are reunited with God in heaven.



2

Know key parts of the church's history:

- ▶ its roots in the early church of Jerusalem
- ▶ the Protestant Reformation and work of John Calvin and John Knox in the 1500s
- ▶ the Westminster Assembly in the 1600s
- ▶ the first presbytery in America in 1706
- ▶ the North-South split in the U.S. in the 1800s
- ▶ the formation of today's Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), when the 2 largest branches reunited in 1983.

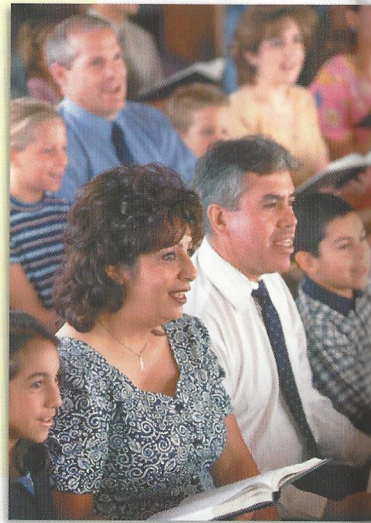
3

3

Promise to follow Christ.

Set a worthy example through Christian habits, such as:

- ▶ regular participation in worship services and other church activities
- ▶ frequent prayer—whether by reciting prayers, silently contemplating God’s grace, reading Scripture, singing psalms or hymns, or praying in another way
- ▶ good works in word and deed—not as a way to gain God’s favor, but as grateful expression of God’s grace.

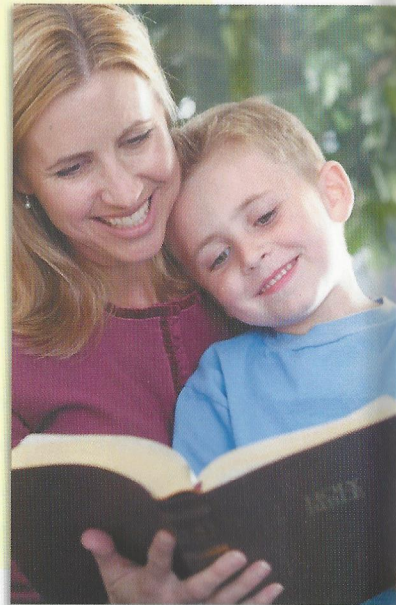


4

Let the Bible inspire and guide your faith.

As Presbyterians, we regard the Bible (also called Scriptures) as the inspired record of the revelation of God to all. It is the most authoritative source for faith and practice for all people. Reading the Bible and being open to God’s Word—individually, as families and as a church community:

- ▶ enriches and deepens our faith in God’s love for us
- ▶ keeps the guiding presence of Jesus in our lives through the Holy Spirit.



5

Be guided and inspired by the Book of Confessions, too.

It helps form the foundation for our understanding of God and what God expects of us. It contains:

- ▶ the Apostles’ Creed and Nicene Creed—centuries-old Christian creeds
- ▶ the Scots Confession (1560), Heidelberg Catechism (1563) and Second Helvetic Confession (1566)
- ▶ the Westminster Confession of Faith, Shorter Catechism and Larger Catechism (all from 1647)
- ▶ the Theological Declaration of Barmen (1934)
- ▶ the Confession of 1967
- ▶ A Brief Statement of Faith—Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), adopted in 1991.



6

Celebrate the sacrament of baptism.

This is one of 2 sacraments our church has, both given by Christ. Baptism is a public statement of our faith. It is open to all ages, including infants. Whether it’s performed in a Presbyterian or another Christian church, we believe that baptism:

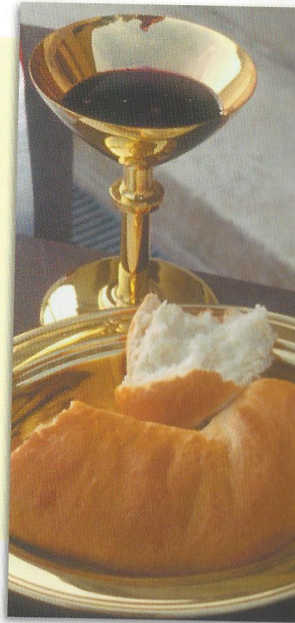
- ▶ unites us with Christ and makes us members of God’s family
- ▶ brings us into the church community.

7

Celebrate the Lord's Supper.

This is the other of our church's 2 sacraments. It is also called communion or the Eucharist (which means a thanksgiving). The bread and wine represent the sacrificial body and blood of Christ. They recall Christ's last meal with the apostles and symbolize the new covenant between God and all who believe. Celebrating the Lord's Supper:

- ▶ renews our faith
- ▶ strengthens us for the duties and privileges of Christian service.



8

Enjoy fellowship.

You can find fellowship in:

- ▶ Bible studies and other religious education
- ▶ prayer meetings
- ▶ men's and women's groups
- ▶ youth and children's activities
- ▶ church-wide events
- ▶ camps and retreats
- ▶ household worship (in prayer, song, Scripture reading or other ways)
- ▶ special projects with other Presbyterian churches, locally and around the world.



9

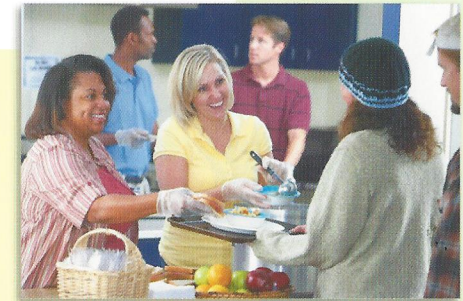
Use God's gifts to you for the good of your church.

- ▶ Volunteer your time, talent and efforts.
- ▶ Contribute financially, as you are able.

10

Help to further the church's work nearby and afar.

- ▶ Be open to a call to leadership.
- ▶ Support missions and service projects.
- ▶ Give aid to those who are sick or in need.



Your participation in our church's ministry

helps your personal growth and sense of belonging. And it helps our church do God's work in our world. To learn more:

- ▶ Talk with your local church's pastors, elders and deacons.
- ▶ Contact the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—www.pcusa.org or 1-800-728-7228.

Being an active church member is your faithful response to God's call and God's grace.