

READ THIS FIRST...

This is a guide to the next steps in discovering a deeper way of living your faith! The only prerequisite is your curiosity and desire for more in your life. If this describes you, then you've come to the right place.

The journey of discipleship or growing as a follower of God is cumulative & holistic.

Each discipleship step leads you to a new place in your faith with new challenges & opportunities. Discipleship is not just about attending worship or a Bible study.

Discipleship is a growing relationship with God that builds over time & involves every aspect of your life.

The areas outlined in this worksheet have a variable priority during our lives. You may be living fully in the GIVE GENEROUSLY and GROW IN FAITH areas of your life while really struggling to make WORSHIP GOD a priority. There is no right or wrong way to travel on a journey of discipleship. The important thing is that we look deeply at our own life & relationship with Jesus Christ and that we be willing to take responsibility for our own discipleship growth.

We encourage every person to take an inventory of their growth in each of these areas. This helps us to see the 2 or 3 areas in which we would like to focus on growing in our spiritual journey. The steps are simple:

1. Check one box in each column which best describes you today (6 boxes total).
2. Spend time reflecting on which areas you would like to see growth.
3. Talk with a pastor or trusted friend to make a plan with a goal for growth in the coming year.
4. Experience taking steps toward living life to its fullest!

When you are ready to make things official and become a member of Melissa UMC?

The only official requirement for membership in the United Methodist Church is that you have been baptized. We schedule times for people to join the church at any time when community is gathered. This is typically at the end of a worship service but we can arrange another time if you are uncomfortable in front of a crowd.

Members of our church typically find themselves in a place where they are nearing the 'commit' level of discipleship in each of the areas in this brochure.

You will be asked one question... *"Will you be loyal to Melissa United Methodist Church by supporting it with your prayers, presence, gifts, service & witness?"* The community that is gathered will then greet you!

To access the new member information form, please contact the church office or scan the QR code below. You will return this form to the pastor or the church office at the time you join the church.



Living Fully within Melissa UMC

a guide to more in your life & information on becoming a member

Everyone wants to live a life that matters. Everyone wants to feel loved, to find contentment, and to make a difference.

"I came that they may have life - indeed, so that they could LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST."

Jesus in John 10:10



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welcome

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <i>accepting you for who you are & where you are in your journey</i> | WORSHIP GOD | BUILD FRIENDSHIPS |
| DISCOVER | ATTEND worship & find a church home | WONDER about the story God has given you |
| EXPLORE | Make worship REGULAR part of your week | ASK questions about others' stories |
| COMMIT | ENGAGE & EXPERIENCE God in worship | SHARE your story in a group or worship |
| <i>most people find themselves at or near 'commit' in each area as a member of Melissa UMC</i> | | |
| ALL IN | PRIORITIZE worship & attend every Sunday unless sick or out of town | SEEK to build a friendship with someone who might have a story like yours |
| <i>most leaders in our church find themselves at or near 'all in' in several discipleship areas</i> | | |

encourage

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| <i>building up & cheering on those around us</i> | GROW IN FAITH | LOVE EACH OTHER |
| DISCOVER | EXPLORE the Bible by purchasing one or downloading an app | WATCH for ways the church cares for others |
| EXPLORE | ATTEND a class or group to see what might fit for you | PRAY for the names on our Friday email prayer list |
| COMMIT | COMMIT to being a part of a weekly small group | CARE for & LISTEN to someone you know is struggling |
| ALL IN | SEEK someone beginning to grow in faith & grow together | LEARN about & USE your spiritual gifts |

serve

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <i>allowing God to work through you</i> | GIVE GENEROUSLY | TRANSFORM THE WORLD |
| DISCOVER | GIVE a regular & intentional financial gift | LEARN about the ways you can serve |
| EXPLORE | ATTEND a Saving Grace or Putting Your House in Order | TALK to someone who serves in an area that interests you |
| COMMIT | INCREASE your giving by 1% or more of your income | CONNECT with a team and serve for one year |
| ALL IN | TITHE 10% of your income | USE your gifts to make a unique contribution |