

COVENANT PARTNER AT



We are so glad that you are interested in taking
a next step with us by becoming a Covenant Partner at





WHAT IS A COVENANT PARTNER?

Becoming a Covenant Partner is a commitment to making Menlo Church your home church.

By doing this, you are taking an intentional step toward owning your unique role in the work God is doing through Menlo Church. We invite every person to engage in worship, serving, and fellowship here, but Covenant Partners are those who make a clear, public commitment to wholeheartedly and actively contributing to our collective efforts to help people find and follow Jesus.



MENLO CHURCH'S VISION

Our Vision is to lead our generation into a transforming relationship with Jesus, and authentic community with each other, so that everyone in the Bay Area and beyond can flourish.



COVENANT PARTNER REQUIREMENTS

- You are a follower of Jesus
- You have been (or will soon be) baptized
- You have attended Starting Point to learn about our church
- You have a desire to actively contribute to our mission as a church



5 KEY AREAS OF COMMITMENT FOR COVENANT PARTNERS AT MENLO CHURCH

1. Being a disciple of Jesus
2. Participating in weekend services
3. Growing with a Life Group
4. Serving faithfully
5. Giving generously



BENEFITS OF BEING A COVENANT PARTNER AT MENLO CHURCH

1. You get to make a commitment. As you consciously and deliberately commit to the larger Menlo Church community, you are taking a significant personal step into ownership, connection and growth.
2. Others are committing to you. Being a Covenant Partner means that you are part of the core group of people for whom the elders, pastors and larger leadership team are praying, guiding and equipping to live as Jesus' disciples.
3. You become a partner in building this church. You have opportunity to help make decisions about the church's governance and future and also become eligible to hold church office.



COVENANT PARTNER QUESTIONS

1. Do you acknowledge your need for forgiveness and need for a Savior, and do you receive and depend upon Jesus Christ alone for your salvation as explained in the Scriptures?
2. Do you commit to live as a follower of Jesus Christ in reliance upon the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit?
3. Do you promise to serve Christ in this church family by sharing your time, talent and resources through our corporate worship of God, active involvement in our community, and loving service to others?
4. Do you submit yourself to the leadership of the church and promise to further its peace, unity and purity?

OUR VALUES

+ A Church centered in Jesus

We are and will continue to be a “Jesus church,” finding our life, health, vision, and strength in the person of Jesus Christ. We will keep Jesus at the center of our faith and life together. [📖 2 Corinthians 5:17](#) [📖 Galatians 2:20](#)

+ Life rooted in Scripture

We value Scripture—the Bible—as the basis for understanding who God is and how to orient our lives fully around him. [📖 Matthew 4:4](#) [📖 2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

+ Relationships formed in Community

We value authentic Christian community as a necessary context in which spiritual formation can occur. [📖 John 13:35](#) [📖 Hebrews 10:24-25](#)

+ Faith expressed in Action

We value action empowered by the Holy Spirit as a natural outflow of our faith in Jesus, expressing God’s love, compassion, and justice in word and deed in our everyday lives. [📖 Micah 6:8](#) [📖 Ezekiel 36:26-27](#) [📖 Matthew 25:34-40](#) [📖 James 1:27](#)

OUR BELIEFS

As a community of followers of Jesus Christ:

- ✔ We believe God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that he is a being of unimaginably wonderful power, goodness, and love. [📖 Psalm 118:1](#) [📖 Psalm 145:1-9](#)
[📖 Matthew 28:19](#) [📖 2 Corinthians 13:14](#)
- ✔ We believe the world exists because God created it, that it belongs to him and therefore we should cherish and care for it. [📖 Genesis 1:1](#) [📖 Psalm 24:1-2](#) [📖 Isaiah 40:25-26](#)
[📖 1 Corinthians 10:26](#)
- ✔ We believe all human beings have dignity because they were created by God in his own image, and great worth because they are valued by God beyond our ability to measure. [📖 Genesis 1:27, 31](#) [📖 Psalm 8:3-6](#) [📖 John 3:16](#) [📖 Romans 5:8](#)
- ✔ We believe this world also has pain and suffering because human beings have fallen and sinned, and are estranged from God, from each other, from ourselves, and from creation. [📖 Genesis 3:17](#) [📖 Romans 3:23](#) [📖 Colossians 1:21](#) [📖 Titus 3:3](#)
- ✔ We believe God does not intend for sin and suffering to get the last word, but is at work to redeem and reconcile what he has made. [📖 Isaiah 11:6-9](#) [📖 Colossians 1:21-23](#)
[📖 Revelation 21:1-5](#)
- ✔ We believe God has revealed the truth about himself in the scriptures of the Old and New Testament, which are our unique and authoritative guides in faith and action. [📖 Matthew 4:4](#) [📖 1 Thessalonians 2:13](#) [📖 2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)
- ✔ We believe God has expressed himself uniquely in his Son Jesus, who lived, taught, died, and rose again for our sakes. Jesus is our master and teacher and savior and friend, and now reigns forever with the Father and the Holy Spirit. [📖 John 14:6-7](#) [📖 Acts 2:32](#)
[📖 1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#) [📖 Ephesians 2:13](#) [📖 Colossians 1:15-20](#) [📖 Philippians 2:5-11](#) [📖 1 Timothy 2:5-6](#)
- ✔ We believe the Spirit of God is now available so we can be closer to God than the air we breathe. [📖 John 14:26](#) [📖 Acts 1:8](#) [📖 Romans 8:26](#) [📖 Galatians 3:14](#) [📖 Ephesians 1:13-14](#)
- ✔ We believe the Church is the community through which God wants to bring love, healing, and growth to the human race, to which he invites everyone who is willing to follow Jesus to join. [📖 Matthew 18:18-20](#) [📖 John 1:12-13](#) [📖 Acts 1:8](#) [📖 Galatians 3:28](#) [📖 1 Peter 2:9](#)
- ✔ We live in hope because one day Jesus will return, love and justice will prevail, and God will set the world right. [📖 Matthew 24:30-31](#) [📖 Luke 12:40](#) [📖 Romans 8:37-39](#) [📖 Revelation 21:1-5](#)

OUR DENOMINATION

Menlo Church is a Partner of a denomination called ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

The Mission of ECO is to build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ. The Core Values of ECO are:

- + **Jesus-shaped Identity:** We believe Jesus Christ must be at the center of our lives and making disciples of Jesus at the core of our ministry.
- + **Biblical Integrity:** We believe the Bible is the unique and authoritative Word of God, which teaches all that is necessary for faith and life. The prominence of God's Word over our lives shapes our priorities, and the unrivaled authority of the Bible directs our actions to be in concert with Christ's very best for our lives.
- + **Thoughtful Theology:** We believe in theological education, constant learning, and the life of the mind, and celebrate this as one of the treasures of our Reformed heritage.
- + **Accountable Community:** We believe guidance is a corporate spiritual experience. We want to connect leaders to one another in healthy relationships of accountability, synergy, and care.
- + **Egalitarian Ministry:** We believe in unleashing the ministry gifts of women, men, and every ethnic group.
- + **Missional Centrality:** We believe in living out the whole of the Great Commission – including evangelism, spiritual formation, compassion, and redemptive justice – in our communities and around the world.
- + **Center-focused Spirituality:** We believe in calling people to the core of what it means to be followers of Jesus – what “mere Christianity” is and does – and not fixate on the boundaries.
- + **Leadership Velocity:** We believe identifying and developing gospel-centered leaders is critical for the church, and a great leadership culture is risk-taking, innovative, and organic.
- ✓ **Kingdom Vitality:** We believe congregations should vigorously reproduce new missional communities to expand the Kingdom of God.
- 🔗 **For more information on ECO, visit [www.eco-pres.org/who-we-are/]**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Denomination Questions

1. **What denomination is Menlo Church?** *Menlo Church is a Presbyterian Church as part of the denomination ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, called “ECO” for short. The section titled “Our Denomination” has more information about ECO.*
2. **What does it mean to be a “presbyterian” church?** *“Presbyterian” refers to a specific form of church government, where the church is led by elected representatives from the congregation called “elders.”*
3. **Why did Menlo Church change denominations from the Presbyterian Church (USA) to the Evangelical Order of Presbyterians?** *There were four key factors for this decision:*
 1. **Identity:** *There was a growing gap between Menlo Church's commitments and those of the PC(USA).*
 2. **Mission:** *Menlo Church wanted to be part of a denomination that celebrates and accelerates non-traditional opportunities for evangelism, like being a multi-site church.*
 3. **Governance:** *Menlo Church wanted to be part of a denomination that is focused on the health of the local church.*
 4. **Property:** *Menlo Church wished to have clear ownership of its property in order to confidently invest in our future.*
4. **What is Menlo Church's view on Baptism?** *Through Baptism, we participate in Jesus' death and resurrection by dying to what separates us from God and by being raised to newness of life in Christ. Baptism is available to adults and children upon their profession of faith in Jesus Christ, as well as to infants of parents who are Partners of Menlo Church. Parents wanting to reserve baptism for the time of their child's personal profession of faith in Christ may present their children for dedication. Baptism, whether administered to those who profess their faith or to those presented for Baptism as children, is one and the same Sacrament. The baptism of infants witnesses to the truth of God's gracious initiative - that God loves us even before we are able to respond in faith. The baptism of adults and children witnesses to the truth that God's grace can make us new creations at any stage of our lives.*

Governance Questions

5. **Who governs Menlo Church?** *Collectively, our elders and our lead pastor constitute our church's “elder board” (sometimes called “session”), and they hold the responsibility and authority for guiding Menlo Church as we pursue God's vision for us. Our church as a whole is accountable to our denomination, ECO.*
6. **How do we determine the budget? How much is the budget?** *Menlo Church's fiscal year runs from September 1 to August 31, and our annual budget is developed by our staff, carefully vetted by senior staff leadership, and approved by the elder board. Each year, 10% of the budget is dedicated to Mission (local and global). The rest of the budget normally breaks out to 15% Programming, 20% Facilities, and 55% Salary and Benefits.*

Menlo Church General Questions

- 7. What are some distinctive values at Menlo Church beyond “Everybody’s Welcome, Nobody’s Perfect and Anything’s Possible”?** *At Menlo Church, we value a thoughtful faith, believe in personal spiritual formation, embrace a Christian egalitarian view of people, and are deeply committed to issues of social justice for the sake of God’s world.*
- 8. What does Menlo Church mean when it describes itself as a “Jesus” church?** *Menlo Church is a church centered in Jesus. We are and will continue to find our life, health, vision, and strength in the person of Jesus Christ. We will keep Jesus at the center of our faith and life together.*
- 9. Why did Menlo Church change its name?** *As we were launching new locations, the variety of campus names that existed was creating confusion in our communications. Therefore, in August of 2015, we unified our campuses under the brand Menlo Church to impart our legacy and vision in each location outside of Menlo Park. It’s also how you can find our church online, now at [<http://menlo.church>]. Our legal name remains Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, and we are still part of Presbyterian denomination. We still operate under the same form of church governance, and most importantly, we remain committed to building on the great legacy of the generations that came before us and working to help the Bay Area flourish.*

Menlo Church Community Questions

- 10. Where can I serve at Menlo Church?** *Starting Point is a great place to learn in detail where you can serve. If you are still searching, though, take a look around and see what you might be most interested in doing. Ask any volunteer about their role or go to [<http://menlo.church/serve>] to learn more!*
- 11. What is my next step if I would like to be baptized?** *Let your campus team know that you would like to take this step of faith! You can find more information, including a request form, at [<http://menlo.church/baptism>].*
- 12. Where can I participate in prayer?** *Every campus has a trained team of volunteers available immediately following each worship service who would welcome the opportunity to pray with you. If you would like to join that team, simply speak with one of those people. You can also go to our website and click the red Request Prayer button at the top of the page to submit a prayer.*
- 13. Does the church have a place for people who may not be ready for a “regular” Life Group right now and need more deliberate support and accountability during a difficult season?** *Yes. Go to [<http://menlo.church/care>] to learn about groups and ministries that may be able to help.*
- 14. What is Menlo Church’s perspective on the LGBTQ community?** *We believe that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with every person regardless of their sexual orientation. At Menlo Church, everyone is welcome to find community and encouraged to take a step toward Jesus. While sexuality is important, it is only one facet of the human experience. Our primary identity comes from being created and loved by God. Our humble understanding of God’s intention for sexual intimacy is that it be expressed in a permanent covenant relationship between a husband and wife. We recognize that churches differ on this issue and that people within our church family differ on this issue. We believe that people who have different views can be in community together by honoring each other with respect and love.*

- 15. What is Menlo Church’s view on racial justice?** *We believe that all those who follow Jesus are called to be truth-seekers and justice-bringers and reconcilers and lamenters and healers. We live in a society where some lives are regarded as less valuable than others, where power is unequally distributed, where each episode of injustice becomes a toxic reminder of the felt powerlessness of many, where it is dangerous to be a man of color, and where the sin of racism continues to mock the promise of hope. This is all our problem. Paul said of the people of God: ‘Here there is no Greek of Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.’ We are each called to speak out, to name wrong as wrong, to bear the burden of one another. It is as each single one of us owns this and prays this and names this that healing change can come; and the image of God in each human being can be seen and honored.*

Covenant Partner Questions

- 16. What does being a Covenant Partner allow me to do that I can’t as an attender?** *See “Benefits of Being a Covenant Partner at Menlo Church” section.*
- 17. Can I transfer my partnership from another church?** *Yes. After completing Starting Point, there will be opportunity to become a Covenant Partner of Menlo Church. One of the required steps is the completion of a form where you can indicate that you are transferring your partnership.*
- 18. I’ve completed Starting Point but I’m not ready to become a Covenant Partner at Menlo Church. Can I decide later?** *Yes. When you are ready to make that decision, please contact your campus pastor about next steps.*

I have a question that is not on this list. Who can I talk with? *You can reach out to any of our Menlo Church staff or elders to ask your question. If the person you contact is unable to respond to your question, he/she will find someone who can! Staff can be reached in person or at info@menlo.church and elders can be reached at elders@menlo.church*



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