

Reba Place Church Membership questions

- Do you renounce Satan, and all spiritual powers that rebel against God?
- Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, sent into the world to be our savior, and that Jesus died for our sins, rose again, ascended into heaven, and will come again in power and glory? Do you acknowledge yourself as a sinner, in need of God's forgiveness, and do you reaffirm your desire to die to sin and be raised to new life in Christ, as expressed in your baptism?
- Are you yielding all that you have and are to become a disciple of Jesus, and is it your desire to obey him, letting the Scriptures be your rule of faith and life?
- Are you ready to take your place with us here in this church,
 - giving and receiving counsel as we seek to know God's will?
 - sharing your financial resources?
 - using your spiritual gifts?
 - being faithful in prayer?
 - accepting the leaders of this church as your leaders?
 - and making every effort to maintain the unity of the spirit with all of us who are your brothers and sisters in Christ?

RPC Membership Expectations

(interpreting the questions above)

“Are you ready to take your place with us here...”	Be present & involved
“...giving and receiving counsel...”	Get to know people & engage God together
“sharing your financial resources”	Give regularly & generously as God enables you
“...using your spiritual gifts”	Serve in areas of your gifting
“...being faithful in prayer”	Pray for the RPC Community & her mission
“...accepting the leaders”	Respect the Congregation’s process & structure
“...maintain the unity of the Spirit...”	Treat all with love & respect, practicing healthy conflict, & repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation in relationships

The ministry of Jesus and the vision of Reba Place Church

*"God reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation"
(2 Corinthians 5:18-19 NRSV)*

The vision of Reba Place Church is for the reconciliation of all things to God.

This is the ministry that God revealed in Jesus and has given to us.

We cannot capture the entire breadth and depth of this ministry, but we fix our eyes on Jesus and upon his vision of God's present and impending kingdom. By the power and grace of the Holy Spirit we enter into the life, the love, the sufferings, and the resurrection power of Jesus our Lord and Savior. He is the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus knew the purpose and call God had upon his life. He entrusted himself to God in all things, even death on the cross. He was aware of the many agendas competing for his loyalty and attention, and of the claims that others placed upon him. Yet knowing God's love for the world, Jesus' supreme joy was revealing that love through a life of unswerving fidelity to God. **The vision of Reba Place Church is to be a community devoted to loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and by that love resisting the idolatries of our age.**

Jesus lived in a time of a changing world order, when the violence and anger of oppressed people was suppressed by the threat of even greater violence. Jesus understood that the exchange of one kind of violence for another did not constitute a true peace. Instead, Jesus modeled the Shalom of God, a peace that endures and shines forth in the midst of suffering and violence. **The vision of Reba Place Church is to be a community giving testimony to and embodying God's Shalom in a violent and angry world.**

Jesus understood the reality of sin and suffering in the world. He saw the effects of physical deprivation and disease consuming from without, and of spiritual hunger consuming from within. Jesus ministered to the whole person: feeding the hungry, healing diseases, forgiving sin, and gently binding and releasing those broken in spirit. **The vision of Reba Place Church is to be a community where God's salvation is proclaimed and God's healing presence is revealed to a sinful and wounded world.**

Jesus saw and experienced the misuse of power and authority by government, religious institutions, and individuals. Jesus taught his disciples that whoever wanted to be great must be a servant. He demonstrated the right exercise of power and authority and he offered himself as an example. **The vision of Reba Place Church is to be a community bound in service to God's mission, to one another, to the place and people around us, and to the world.**

Jesus knew the cost of discipleship. He knew that to devote himself to the mission of God would mean that many of the common ventures of life would be unavailable to him; and that opposition, rejection, and death lay before him. Yet in all of this Jesus' life was marked by a joy that came from his embrace by the love of God. This joy followed him even to the cross.

The vision of Reba Place Church is to be a community of an abundant and perplexing joy. This joy is born in the knowledge that, above all else, we are embraced by and abiding in the relentless, inescapable, and inexhaustible love of God.

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