Morningside UMC
Membership Class

Membership classes will review the following 3 topics over the course of 2 1.5-hour sessions:

1) Local Church Membership: Morningside UMC History & Polity

2) United Methodist Church History, Theology & Polity

3) Christian Theology & Sacraments

---

1) Local Church Membership: Morningside UMC History & Polity – We will study the meaning of local church membership, and how the Methodist Quadrilateral (Scripture, Reason, Experience and Tradition) apply to our rights and responsibilities as members of Morningside Ministry. We also will explore Morningside Ministry's history, then study our current governmental structure.

2) United Methodist Church History, Theology & Polity – Methodism originated from the work of two brothers, John and Charles Wesley. We will see how they shaped its history, theology and polity (church structure), and understand some of the basic differences between Methodism and other denominations. We will also explore the history of Methodism and the United Methodist Church (itself a separate denomination within Methodism as a whole).

3) Christian Theology & Sacraments – all religious systems must be able to answer four fundamental questions regarding the nature of human life: Who are we? Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? We will explore how Christianity answers these questions according to 9 fundamental aspects of the faith:

God	(Theology – from "theos" or "God")
Jesus Christ	(Christology – from "Christos" or "Christ")
Holy Spirit	(Pneumatology – from "pneuma" or "Spirit")
Creation	(Cosmology – from "kosmos" or "creation; physical universe")
Humanity	(Anthropology – from "anthropos" or "man")
Sin & Fall	(Hamartiology – from "hamartia" or "sin")
Salvation	(Soteriology – from "soteria" or "salvation")
Church	(Ecclesiology – from "ekklesia" or "called out ones; church")
End	(Eschatology – from "eschaton" or "end")

We also will explore the meaning and practice of administering the sacraments.