

Church Office

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Meeting location

Marshall Middle School

25 S. Pontiac, Janesville

Pastor:

John Swanson

*Declaring the greatness of God and serving
others for joy and His honor (II Cor. 4:5)*



May 27, 1999

Dear «Greeting»,

As you have heard me say, the only membership that matters is membership in God's family, the church. God makes us members of his church by uniting us to Christ through our faith. It is God's will that every person who is a member of God's family join with that family in a local church. We cannot express what it means to be a part of God's family without being vitally connected to a particular church in a particular location.

I'd like to invite you to consider becoming connected to River Hills Community Church by becoming a charter member this summer. Here are the qualifications, taken from our constitution & by-laws, of who is eligible to become a member of this church:

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE V, MEMBERSHIP

- A. Any person who confesses faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who sincerely seeks to live in obedience to the Word of God; who agrees with the Statement of Faith of the Church; and who desires to participate in the worship, fellowship and ministries of this church shall be eligible for membership.
- B. Membership in this Church is a commitment to participate in the life and government of this Church and to be under the scriptural discipline of this Church in areas of faith and practice.

BY-LAWS, QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP, ARTICLE 1, SECTION A

1. Any person who has personally trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord shall be considered as a candidate for Church Membership.
2. A candidate for membership must express agreement with the doctrinal statement, Constitution, by-laws, and Core Values of this Church.
3. A candidate for membership must sincerely seek to live a consistent Christian life.
4. A candidate for membership shall attend Church services regularly for a period of at least six months.
5. A candidate for membership shall attend at least six New Member classes.
6. A candidate for membership must agree with, and sign, the Membership Covenant.
7. A member must be at least 18 years of age before he/she may vote at a congregational business meeting.

PROCESS FOR BECOMING A MEMBER OF RHCC

- Attend the six "Discovering Membership at River Hills Community Church" classes. Each of the six sessions will be offered three times (See the enclosed schedule). You need to sign up for when you will attend each session either at the worship service or by calling the church office. **Coming to the classes does not commit you to becoming a member of the church.**
- Fill out a "Membership Application" and give it to me or mail to the church office **by July 15.**

- Meet personally with me and either Ed Wojociechowski, Dan Martin, or Todd Cook. We will share our personal faith journeys, how the church can help you take the next step in your relationship with God and answer any questions you may have. Please sign up for an appointment at the information table on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office.
- All charter members will need to come to our charter membership meeting on Sunday, August 22nd at 6pm to sign the Membership Covenant (I've enclosed a copy for your perusal.). We will also vote on a number of issues to incorporate as an independent congregation affiliated with the Forest Lakes District of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

There will be a table set up each Sunday morning with all the information and schedules regarding the entire process. I also want to make clear that membership is open to those under 18, if they fulfill the qualifications set forth in the by-laws. Our by-laws simply stipulate that you cannot vote until you are 18.

Be assured that whatever you decide is fine. You may not feel that you are ready to make this kind of commitment to River Hills at this time and that's OK. We are committed to being a church that has room for people no matter where they are at in their spiritual development. We view membership as simply one of the steps that people take in their growth as followers of Jesus. My greatest passion is for each of us to find Jesus to be the all-satisfying treasure of our lives. Membership in the church is simply one of the tools God has given us to help that become a greater reality. Please don't hesitate to ask me any questions that you may have about this whole process.

Happy to belong to this part of God's family,