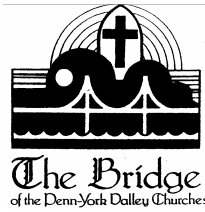


*Bridging the gaps of life in the
name of Jesus Christ.*



*"Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28*

Policy and Procedure: Membership of *The Bridge*

Policy

The Bridge of the Penn-York Valley Churches is a Christian organization comprised of individuals from member churches of the Penn-York Valley witnessing the love of God by reaching out to those in need in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Christian churches that are part of *The Bridge* may be listed on the brochure of *The Bridge* and are eligible to issue vouchers. In addition, they may access other services of *The Bridge* and appoint voting and participating members to attend the General Meetings of *The Bridge*. Refer to *The Bridge of the Penn-York Valley Churches Bylaws*.

Procedure

I. Process for Obtaining Church Membership:

- A. A church requesting consideration for membership in *The Bridge* submits the request to the President of *The Bridge* in writing along with a copy of the church's statement of faith.
- B. Once the request is received, a Church Membership Committee is appointed during a General Meeting of *The Bridge*.
- C. The Church Membership Committee will be comprised of at least 1 officer and 3 clergy or clergy recommended persons from member churches.
- D. The task of the Church Membership Committee is to make reasonably sure that the church meets the requirements of *The Bridge* for membership outlined in its Bylaws in Article II. & III., including being "Christian" and being able to say that the assistance they provide as a participant in *The Bridge* is done so "in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." It is expected that the church's statement of faith will include some of the traditional, fundamental beliefs of the Christian faith such as:
 - 1. The Bible is the written Word of God. (II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 3:16)
 - 2. There is one God existing in 3 persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:18-19; John 14:15-18; II Corinthians 3:17; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:2-3; I Peter 1:2; Acts 5:3-4)
 - 3. Jesus Christ, the Son, is both fully God and fully human. (Philippians 2:6-11; John 1:1-18; II Corinthians 4:4)
 - 4. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1-2)
- E. If there is any area of question in meeting the requirements of membership, the Church Membership Committee may request a meeting with the Pastor and/or church representatives of the church requesting membership.

- F. The Church Membership Committee presents its recommendation at a General Meeting of *The Bridge*. Those present at the General Meeting make the final determination as to whether or not the church is granted membership.
- G. The President issues a letter on behalf of *The Bridge* informing the church of *The Bridge's* determination related to its request for membership.

II. **Process for Maintaining Membership:**

- A. In order for a church to maintain membership in *The Bridge* with its associated benefits (refer to policy statement for benefits), each church is required to have participated in at least two of the supporting activities from the list below.
 - 1. Participated regularly in General Meetings of *The Bridge* (at least one representative at a majority of the monthly meetings).
 - 2. Assisted with fundraisers for *The Bridge* (either through your church OR *The Bridge* such as the Bake Sale, Sleep Out, Candle sales, etc.).
 - 3. Provided financial support to *The Bridge*.
 - 4. Issued vouchers on behalf of *The Bridge* to those in need.
 - 5. Helped resource one of the other ministries of *The Bridge*, i.e., Helping Hands, Ugly Quilts, Kids at Risk, and/or Clothes Closet.
 - 6. Communicated needs of and information about *The Bridge* to the congregation.
 - 7. Prayed regularly for the needs of *The Bridge* and those served.
- B. *The Bridge* Secretary maintains the current list of member churches and the certified voting and participating members of those churches.
- C. Prior to the start of each year, the Secretary of *The Bridge* distributes a letter and form to member churches for the purpose of certifying voting and participating members and determining church participation in the prior year. Refer to Attachment A for a sample letter and form.
- D. At the request of *The Bridge* Secretary during a General Meeting of *The Bridge*, a committee may be formed to assist in this annual process.
- E. Any church that has not met the requirement described above in II. A., may have their certification reaffirmed after showing active participation over a 3-month period.

III. **Expectations of Voting Members of *The Bridge*:**

- A. Regularly attend and participate in the monthly General Meetings of *The Bridge*.
- B. Communicate the activities & needs of *The Bridge* to the church leadership/congregation as necessary.
- C. Support the fundraising activities of *The Bridge*.