

(Not official until By-Laws revised)

7.0 Membership Policy

7.1 A Member of First Parish includes one who:

- Is sixteen years of age or older.
- Is in general support of the purposes, goals, and programs of First Parish.
- Has signed the Membership Book in the presence of the Minister. (Ideally having attended orientation sessions conducted by the Membership Committee in conjunction with the Minister.)
- Makes an annual financial contribution of record (not required of those 16-21 years of age.) (Members are welcome to consult with a minister if contributing is a concern.)
- Contributes time and talent toward church functioning.

7.2 Being a Member of First Parish allows one to:

- Chair committees.
- Vote at parish meetings beginning 30 days after signing the Membership Book.
- Help choose new ministers.
- Represent First Parish at regional and national events.
- Take priority over non-members at retreats and other activities when attendance must be limited.
- Receive a discount on adjunct services and activities. (Program fees may differ for membership categories.)
- Participate in certain special programs such as OWL, Coming of Age, and service trips.

7.3 A Friend of First Parish:

- Is in general support of the purposes, goals, and programs of First Parish.
- Does not wish to sign the membership book.
- Is encouraged to make an annual financial contribution.
- Is welcome to contribute time and talent toward church functioning.

7.4 Removal from Active Membership

A Member may be moved to inactive status upon:

- A written request from the Member.
- An oral request from the Member to the Minister.
- Review and consultation by the ministers, if this Member has not fulfilled the conditions of membership as stated above, has not made a request to become a Friend and has neither contacted nor responded to efforts to reestablish contact with First Parish for 2 years.
- Death of the Member.

7.5 An Honorary Member is one who:

- Has been a longstanding member of First Parish whose circumstances prevent participation but whose past contributions are honored.

** Exceptions to this membership policy will be at the Minister's discretion.*