

Invitation to Discipleship Responsibilities

1. At the close of the worship service, go to the designated room.
 - 8:30 a.m. service: Room 110 (Parlor)
 - 11:00 a.m. service: Room 133 (History and Heritage Room).Make sure you are wearing a name tag. Pray, asking God to guide you and use you in the life of another. Look for a black Invitation to Discipleship folder. It is on the counter in Room 110, and in the top drawer of the first file cabinet in Room 133.
2. If someone comes in, introduce yourself and invite the person to sit down. Find out the person's name. Throughout the conversation, use the person's first name to help you remember it.
3. Find out why the person has come by saying something like, "*We are glad you worshipped here today. How may I help you?*"
4. If the person is interested in **church membership**, ask about his/her previous church experience.
 - If currently a member of a church: The individual can ask that the session request a transfer of his/her letter.
 - If not currently a member or a letter is not available, the individual can be received through a statement of faith in Jesus Christ.
 - If never been baptized, the individual can come by profession of faith in Jesus Christ and baptism.
 - If the person has been baptized but never made a confirmation of faith and become a member, the individual does not need to be re-baptized, but will need to make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.If the individual is ready to take any of these steps, take the name and contact information (phone, email, address) and tell the person that one of the pastors will get in touch in the next week to answer questions and set a time to meet with the session.. The session can receive members after any worship service or at any regular session meeting.
5. If the person has come to **find out about the Christian faith** and he/she is not sure what it means to be a Christian, explain your own reasons for belonging to the Christian faith and why you accept Jesus as God's son. If this is too uncomfortable for you, you may offer to give the person's name and contact information. to one of the ministers. Also, there will be a book in the room that you can give on what it means to be a Christian.
6. If a person has come to **find out about the Presbyterian Church** (U.S.A.) and our doctrine and polity, give answers from your best understanding about the uniqueness of being Presbyterian. There will also be books in the black Invitation to Discipleship folder on Presbyterians that you can give.

Regarding Presbyterian doctrine: We are part of the Christian tradition known as the reformed tradition, meaning that we believe that Jesus Christ alone is head of the church, that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired word of God, that we understand our faith more clearly through confessions and creeds, and that salvation comes by grace alone. We believe that God acts on our behalf even before we are able to understand or repent.

Regarding Presbyterian polity: We are ruled by elders who are both ministers of the word and sacrament and laypeople. Both kinds of elders are elected by the congregation.

7. If the person has come **for prayer**, be sensitive to the concern and then pray with and for him/her. Do not be concerned about having the right words to say. It is the act and the spirit that is experienced in prayer.
8. If the person has come with **a counseling need**, listen to the need and then appropriately refer to a member of the pastoral staff, the Stephen's Ministry team, or the Christian counseling ministry which FPC supports: CareNet Counseling Center, 3219 Landmark Street, Greenville, 27834, 355-2801. There are brochures on this and other counselors in the Invitation to Discipleship folders.
9. If the person has come with **a monetary need** (money for power bill, tank of gas, groceries, housing, etc.), explain that the church does not give out cash. We refer to the service agencies the church supports who are equipped to address those needs. There will be a sheet in the black Invitation to Discipleship folder with referral information such as addresses and phone numbers. If a person is insistent or argumentative, check with church staff. Sometimes the individual may have presented to the church previously. *Please do not take money out of your purse or wallet and give to the individual.*

