



Ways to Improve Attendance of Current Members

By Robert Crossman

- At least once or twice each year, perhaps in the New Year's resolution season, teach and preach the importance of faithful worship attendance.
- Invite church members to make a written commitment to grow one step toward faithful attendance.
- Include a commitment to faithful worship attendance as part of a holistic annual stewardship commitment.
- Keep a record of attendance and monitor it.
- Know that it is important to respond to absentees before they drop out of active attendance. Once a regular attender misses six consecutive weeks, it is hard to return to the habit of consistent Sunday worship.
- Form a worship membership care team to review attendance within 24 hours of each service.
- Send a handwritten note (signed by the membership care team, not the pastor) to anyone who has missed three Sundays in a row. Say, "Looking through the attendance slips, we've missed your name! Hope to see you next Sunday." In a smaller church, the wording can be more personal.
- Ask a personal friend (a choir mate, Sunday School class member, or someone who sits in the same pew) to telephone people who have missed four Sundays in a row. "Hi, John. We've noticed that Fred has missed church the last four Sundays. Can you telephone him this evening?"
- Maintain a loving, invitational relationship with those who have been absent for five or more Sundays. Never be judgmental.
- Telephone every household in the church and everyone who has ever visited to invite them to some special event four times a year. Say, "Hi. We are calling everyone related to First Church this week, reminding everyone that this Sunday the choir is singing the Messiah. I hope you will be there."

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