

# Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community

*All Are Welcome*

[www.dmiec.org](http://www.dmiec.org)

## How to Become a Member

Dear Friend,

September 2020

Thank you for your interest in formal Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community (DMIEC) Member status. This document is designed to explain the requirements for Member status and the information you'll need to submit to become a Member.

Iowa law requires that DMIEC maintain a membership roster. In complying with that legal requirement, we want to stress that our key principle, "All Are Welcome," is and will continue to be DMIEC's vision. We recognize that attendees at our weekly worship services range from:

- Those curious to see what DMIEC is.
- Some who are comfortable with one or more DMIEC services, but also want to maintain or explore participation in other communities.
- A growing number of persons who have decided DMIEC is the spiritual home community they want in their faith journeys.

We recognize that wisdom and insights from other churches and faiths are valuable and can enrich our liturgies. We are also mindful of the need to respect each person's unique spiritual journey, and so we do not assume that DMIEC must or will be your only church, faith community or religious affiliation. (We cannot speak, of course, as to how one's membership in DMIEC might be viewed by any other church, denomination, or religious group.)

Under DMIEC's By-Laws, you can be a Member (with accompanying voting and other membership rights, such as access to certain portions of the website) if you are at least 16 years old and:

1. Periodically worship at DMIEC services;
2. Support DMIEC through volunteering and/or donations; and
3. Would like to be regarded as a legal Member of DMIEC.

Some explanatory comments on those qualifications are set out in an FAQ list on the following page. \*\*\* ***Note: During the COVID-19 period of virtual worship services, we recognize that some of the info may not be as applicable. Please assume that any items that don't make sense during the pandemic likely won't be applicable until in-person services resume.***

*Note: To request a membership form, please email your request to [dmiec11@gmail.com](mailto:dmiec11@gmail.com) If we don't receive your completed membership form, we won't be able to include you in the DMIEC member roster, as your consent is essential for membership under Iowa law. If you have any questions not addressed in the FAQs, please send them to that same email address.*

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

We have tried to anticipate and answer questions you and others may have about DMIEC membership:

**Q.** I want to consent to membership and be included in the DMIEC membership roster. What do I need to do, in order to accomplish that?

**A.** Please complete the one-page Membership Form either in hard copy or via email as explained, above. Be sure to include your contact details in your response. If you don't send your completed Membership Form, we will not be able to include you in the DMIEC member roster at this time, as consent to membership is required by law.

**Q.** How will the membership roster and the information I provide you be used?

**A.** The roster will be used to determine eligibility for voting on matters entrusted to the membership by the articles and by-laws. Members will be given access to certain restricted portions of the new DMIEC website. If you do not want some or all of your personal information (e.g., name, street address, telephone no., and/or e-mail address) to be available to other DMIEC members on that portion of the website, please indicate that in the place provided on the form. Otherwise, your information will be included on a list and shared with other DMIEC Members in that manner. Note: Members are expected to use that list only for DMIEC community-related matters –not for unrelated business or similar solicitations.

**Q.** In order to be considered a Member of DMIEC, do I need to renounce other church memberships or religious affiliations?

**A.** No. Consistent with the central principle of "All are Welcome," the DMIEC Articles and By-Laws contain no "exclusivity" requirement and do not condition membership upon DMIEC being your only church, faith community, or religious affiliation. NOTE: We cannot speak to how DMIEC membership would be viewed by any other churches, denominations or faith communities.

**Q.** Does DMIEC membership require a specified level of monetary giving/tithing or subject members to monetary assessments?

**A.** No. DMIEC membership requires "financial or in-kind contributions to the DMIEC." Translation: You share via the offering plate or help out in some other way – setting up, serving as a reader or Eucharistic minister, bringing food, cleaning up, helping with music, volunteering at special liturgies, etc.

**Q.** If I become a DMIEC Member, am I liable for debts of the organization?

**A.** No. DMIEC's Articles and By-Laws do not authorize assessments to be imposed upon members. The By-Laws provide, among other things, "No Member of the DMIEC shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of this organization of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property of any Member be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of the DMIEC."

**Q.** In order to be considered a Member of DMIEC, do I need to attend every Sunday or even most Sundays?

**A.** No. While we hope you'll join us often, the articles of incorporation merely require that members attend on a regular basis as able, recognizing that attendance patterns for this new community will be fairly fluid. We wouldn't expect this to be an issue for anyone.

**Q.** If I do not wish to consent to membership in DMIEC at this time, may I still attend DMIEC worship services and events?

**A.** Absolutely! Again, "All are Welcome" has been a key vision of DMIEC from the start. Even if you are not currently ready to assume DMIEC member status, we would encourage you to revisit that question from time to time on your spiritual journey and let us know if you later decide that you would like to be included as a member of DMIEC. In the meantime, we hope you'll actively participate and share in our worship services and events.