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BAY VIEW ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### **Bay View Membership Frequently Asked Questions**

*Below are some frequently asked questions about the membership process in Bay View. Please review them carefully. If you have any additional questions, email us at [memberapps@bayviewassociation.org](mailto:memberapps@bayviewassociation.org) or call us at 231-347-6225.*

#### **Q: How do I know if membership in the Bay View Association is right for me?**

A: Bay View is truly a unique community and unlike many other vacation communities, we rely on our members to be involved and participatory. If you have not spent much time in Bay View, we encourage you to rent a cottage and truly immerse yourself in all Bay View has to offer. Meet your neighbors. Attend events. That is how you will really get to know Bay View!

#### **Q: If I have questions about the Application or process, who do I ask?**

A: You can either call the Association's office with your questions at 231-347-6225 or you can email the Membership Committee at [memberapps@bayviewassociation.org](mailto:memberapps@bayviewassociation.org). We are happy to talk with you about any questions or concerns that you may have.

#### **Q: What determines the membership requirements?**

A: The bylaws of the Bay View Association dictate the requirements for membership.

#### **Q: Does Bay View still require me to be a Christian to belong?**

A: No. You have to agree to respect the Principles of the United Methodist Church and support the Mission of Bay View, but you do not have to be a member of any religion or hold any religious beliefs. In fact, we will not inquire about your religious beliefs. The Association does not take race, color, religion, religious beliefs or lack thereof, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, or sexual orientation into consideration when making membership decisions.

#### **Q: How can I agree to support the Christian Mission of the Association if I am not Christian?**

A: The operations and programs of the Association are heavily dependent on volunteer work by members. While some activities are directly related to Christian programming or worship, there are countless opportunities to become involved in non-religious endeavors such as recreation, education, performing arts and buildings and grounds. Opportunities abound and can be discussed during your interview.

**Q: How long does the application process typically take?**

A: That depends on many factors; it can range from a few weeks to over a year. You can help keep the process moving by making sure we receive all four reference letters on a timely basis and that they are complete.

**Q: Are evaluations of membership applications made year-round?**

A: No. Bay View primarily functions as a six-month association. During the eight-week Summer Assembly Season, the Membership Committee meets regularly to evaluate complete applications (as well as to conduct interviews). Before and after this eight-week Assembly Season, but between May 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, the committee does its best to interview and evaluate applications depending on the availability of committee members. During the off-season, (November 1-April 30), applications are not considered (but may be submitted). All interviews must be performed in Bay View.

**Q: How long is my application considered active?**

A: Applications are valid for 18 months from the date of receipt of the application fee.

**Q: May my spouse and I apply on the same application?**

A: No. Each application is handled individually. You may ask the same people to be references for you, but they need to write a letter for each application. You can request that we interview you as a couple, but each of your applications will be acted on independently.

**Q: How do I get the reference letters sent for my application?**

A: The Association has a reference letter request that should be sent to each potential reference that contains complete instructions and the information that must be contained in the letter. The reference letter request is available at [this link](#). It is your responsibility to request each letter and provide the reference letter request to each person who will provide a reference.

**Q: Who conducts the interviews?**

A: Typically, two members of the Membership Committee conduct interviews for membership. Often this consists of the committee chair and one other committee member.

**Q: May I interview via phone or Skype?**

A: No. Membership interviews are conducted in person, on the grounds of Bay View.

**Q: When will my application be considered by the Membership Committee?**

A: Your application will be considered after all parts are received and an interview is complete. The Membership Committee then makes a recommendation for or against membership. If you are recommended for membership, that recommendation is submitted to the Board of Trustees which then votes to approve or deny the application for membership.

**Q: How will I know if my membership has been approved?**

A: The Association will contact you once a final decision has been made.

**Q: If I am already an Associate Member and want to become a Lease holding Member, do I need to complete the entire Application for Membership?**

A: No. You only need to fill out the Lease holding Membership Addendum.

**Q: If I am not approved for membership or if I withdraw my application, may I get my money back?**

A: If your application is not approved, you will receive 50% of your initial membership fee back. If you withdraw your application, no refund is given.