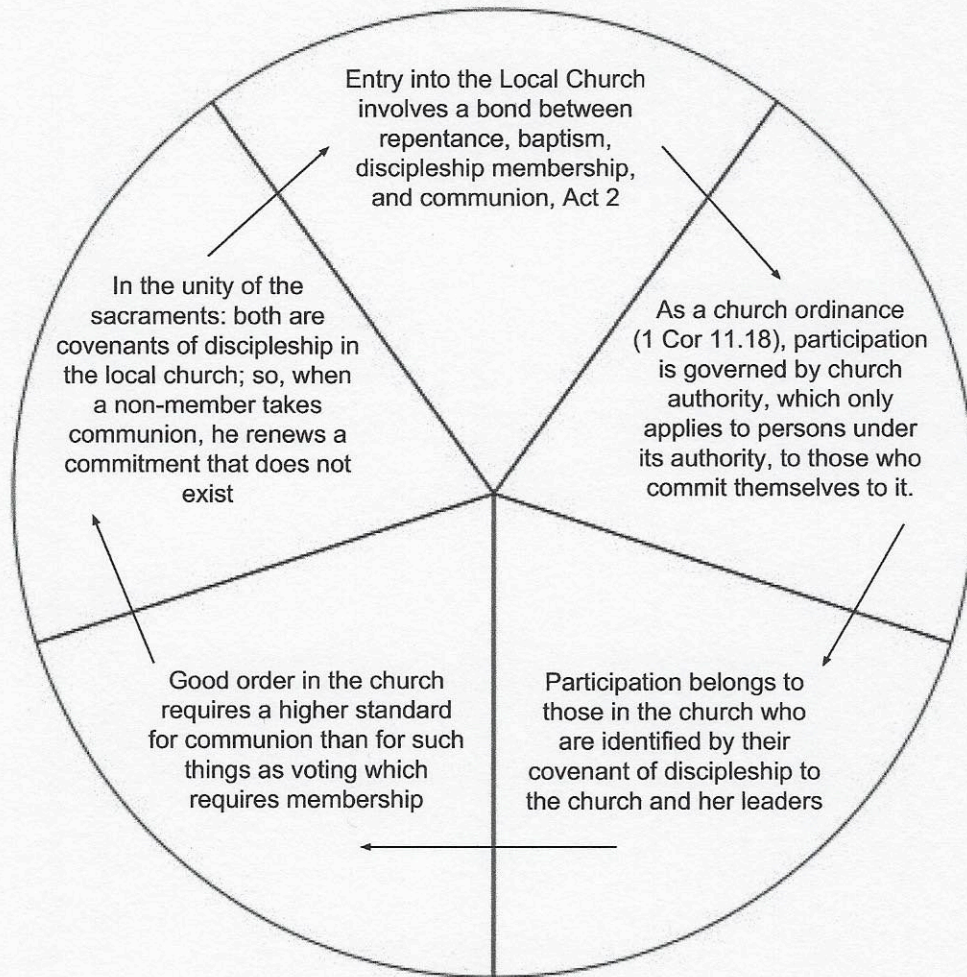


Arguments for the Requirement of Local Church Membership for Partaking of Communion

These arguments are rooted in the fact that Communion is a sacrament of the Local Church.
Every slice of the argument pie contains the ingredient of discipleship under Christ in His Church under pastors.



The direction of the arrows indicates a deepening of ideas associated with discipleship in Christ's church under leaders owned by members as their own ("your leaders").

1. We enter the church by a public repentance-baptism to learn apostolic doctrine and partake of communion.
2. Thus, partaking is under church authority and belongs to those who commit themselves to it.
3. Participation belongs to those, therefore, who are identified by their public commitment to the church under her leaders.
4. Good order requires a higher standard for communion than for voting and other similar things requiring good order. If voting requires membership, then how much more ought communion to require membership.
5. The sacraments are two sides of the same coin: covenant making and covenant renewing. So, if a baptized non-member takes communion, he renews a commitment that does not exist.