

# Cornerstone Church



**Membership Application**

## What is Membership About?

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If you love Jesus and have experienced His forgiveness and grace then you are part of His Church - "the Church universal." But that "universal Church" has always been expressed in local gatherings of believers. And while "membership" isn't a word used in the New Testament the concept clearly is there. Jesus' early followers met in local gatherings and "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). Being a Jesus follower has always been done in relationship with Him and His people.

Membership in a local church is an intentional step of identification with His people and a natural part of being His disciple. Membership is a formal declaration that we are committing to this local gathering. We are saying, "these are my people - this is my family - and this is our mission." As family we commit ourselves to love and invest in one another. We commit ourselves to working out the Great Commandment (To Love God and To Love Others) and the Great Commission (To Go!) in cooperation, and patience, with each other.

Membership also welcomes the church to join you in your path of discipleship. We commit ourselves to love you but also to be held mutually accountable for our growth in Jesus... because He never called on us to follow Him on our own.

## How Do I Become a Member?

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The starting point is to talk to one of our pastors or by reviewing the attached documents about Cornerstone's beliefs and reading the Membership Commitments that you will make (next page). If this still seems like the right place and the right people to join with then fill out this Membership Application Form providing the required information and sharing a bit about your life with Jesus on the Faith Story Worksheet and give it to someone on staff.

Once we have your application one of our pastors will contact you if you haven't already talked. After that, your application will be shared with our Church Board so that there are others ready to walk alongside you as you continue to grow and serve as a member of Cornerstone Church.

On the Sunday arranged you will be asked to share a bit of your faith story with the church (we will make that as easy as we can for you - doing it live or through pre-recorded video). You will then be formally welcomed into membership and prayed for.

# Membership Requirements:

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A person applying to become a Member must:

- Confess personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and gives evidence of Christian character.
- Have been baptized upon their confession of faith.
- Be committed to living a consistent Christian life.
- Be in agreement with the Confession of Faith and Conduct.

# Membership Commitments:

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Becoming a member of Cornerstone Church means that:

- You commit to sharing in and striving toward the vision and mission of the Church - to love God and to love others - and, by doing that, to see the world changed.
- You commit to live in "a manner worthy of the Lord" - keeping our lives open to His commandments and walking in obedience to Him.
- You commit to give gladly of our time, gifting and possessions to the Lord through the church. You will be faithful in church attendance and in serving Him as able.
- You commit to live in love and harmony with one another, forgiving, admonishing encouraging and bearing one another's burdens. You will submit to mutual accountability and loving oversight from church leaders.
- You commit to be constant in prayer and to the active in our sharing of Jesus in our world.
- If you move from this area you will, as soon as possible, seek another church, and practice where you can carry out the spirit of these commitments.
- You commit to be a part of the decision making process for the betterment of our Church, which involves attending Annual General Meetings
- You commit to the growth and health of the church, disregarding any gossip or slander, and bringing areas of concern forward in order to be resolved.

# Application for Membership

Please complete the questions below and briefly share your faith story.

Name:

Birthdate:

Email Address:

Street Address:

City & Postal Code:

Phone:

1. Have you been baptized as a believer (when/where)?
  
2. Are you transferring membership from another church?
  
3. Name & Address of that church:
  
4. Are you interested in getting involved with a mentor or small groups?

# Our Confession of Faith and Conduct

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We believe in the one living and true God, perfect, infinite and eternal, existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; John 15:26; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-5).

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, in His perfect humanity, His atoning death, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension to heaven, and His personal triumphant return (Matthew 16:16; Luke 1:31-33; I Peter 3:18; Luke 24:39; Acts 1:9-11).

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is one with the Father and the Son, and who by the word and various other means, convicts us of our sinfulness, and constantly points us to Jesus Christ, the Saviour of all mankind. It is His power through us and the fruit of the Spirit and the spiritual gifts that enable us to live lives of victory, minister in the church body, and be effective witnesses (John 14:16, 15:26, 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:22-23; I Corinthians 12,13, and 14:1-25).

We believe that the Bible was given by divine inspiration and is the infallible word of God. It constitutes the only perfect guide and final authority of all matters of Christian faith and conduct (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; I Thessalonians 2:13).

We believe in the immortality of the soul, the resurrection of the dead, and divine judgment (I Corinthians 15:22-24; John 5:28-29; II Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12-15; John 3:36).

We believe in the divine power of prayer. We believe in prayer as an avenue of fellowship and communion with God and as a desire to be in God's will (Matthew 6:5-15; Mark 11:23-25; John 15:7; James 5:16b; I John 5:14-15; I Timothy 2:1-8).

We believe that Satan exists and is the enemy of God and all mankind. He seeks to lead believers away from God and unbelievers into eternal damnation. Christians, through the power of the Holy Spirit, must make every effort to avoid his influence on their lives (Matthew 4:1-14; I Peter 5:8; James 4:7; II Corinthians 2:10, 11; Isaiah 14:12-15).

## Our Confession of Faith and Conduct (cont'd)

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We believe that human beings are sinful and in need of redemption. Salvation from sin is possible by the grace of God, through faith in Christ Jesus. This process includes: turning from sin, trusting in Christ, and committing the full and complete control of life to Christ. Jesus refers to this as the new birth (John 3:16; Acts 10:43; Romans 12:1,2; I John 1:9).

We believe in the following worship practices:

i. *Baptism is commanded and ordained by God and is to be administered upon personal desire and confession of faith (Acts 2:38; Matthew 28:19; Galatians 3:27; Mark 16:16).*

ii. *Communion/the Lord's Supper is observed as a memorial of His atoning sacrifice (Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-25).*

We believe in the practice of scriptural church discipline (Matthew 18:15-18; Titus 3:10; Galatians 6:1).

We believe that human life is sacred (Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-16).



# CORNERSTONE CHURCH

## **Marriage, Sexuality and Family**

November 5, 2019

### **Marriage**

We believe in God's design and celebrate marriage as a lifelong covenant between one (*naturally born*) man, one (*naturally born*) woman, and God. We recognize the purposes of marriage are for companionship, sexual union, and the birth and nurture of children.

### **Sexuality**

We believe biblical sexual intimacy takes place only within marriage and we are called to flee from everything that is outside of God's design. By His grace, God can restore those who have struggled in these areas, and who fully submit to Him.

### **Family**

We believe family is a multi-generational team which provides physical, emotional and spiritual care for its members. We recognize the purposes of family are to love God, love each other, love other people and proclaim Jesus to the world. We celebrate both singleness and marriage, recognizing both are honoured by God.

*Genesis 2:18-24; 5:1-2; Leviticus 18:6-23; Psalm 127:3-5; Matthew 10:37-39; 19:3-12; Mark 3:31-35; 10:6-12; Romans 14:12; 1 Corinthians 7:8-40; 10:8; 2 Corinthians 6:14-15; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4*



End Statement  
October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Ends Statement:**

***“Cornerstone Church is a Great Commandment, Great Commission church that equips disciples who passionately seek, obey and reflect Jesus”***

**Definitions/Interpretations:**

**Great Commandment** – Matthew 22:37-39

*“<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’”*

1. Cornerstone Church cultivates an atmosphere where we recognize that our created purpose and number one priority as disciples is to **Love God in all 3 persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
2. Cornerstone Church actively **Loves Others** – Caring for and serving everyone and anyone, both locally and globally.

**Great Commission** – Matthew 28:18-20

*“<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

3. Cornerstone Church is a vibrant community of authentic relationships, supporting each other and **going out** to engage with our neighbours, locally and globally.
4. Cornerstone Church **makes disciples** who reflect Jesus and are capable and intentional in reproducing followers of Jesus. This is accomplished through baptism and biblically centered teaching.
5. Cornerstone Church recognizes that discipleship is a journey of relationship with Jesus that is accessible to all ages and that all people are at some stage of that journey.

**Equips Disciples**

6. Cornerstone Church produces disciples who seek, obey and reflect Jesus in all areas of their lives with the specific outcomes of:
  - Knowing Jesus
  - Knowing God's word
  - Emulating Jesus
  - Knowing how to proclaim and declare Jesus to everyone encountered

**Cornerstone's Vision Statement:**

***“We are a community of disciples who passionately seek, obey & reflect Jesus”***



# Faith Story Worksheet

As part of the application process, the church Board will review your story of how God has worked in your life. This is a good exercise because, as Christians, our story is one of the best ways to tell others about Jesus. We should always be prepared to tell people about why we love and follow Jesus. Include a brief description of how you came to faith in Christ and why. Either use the space below or attach a copy of your testimony and send it to [info@cornerstoneye.ca](mailto:info@cornerstoneye.ca).

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## Showing Your Faith

It is important to have the story of how you came to faith when sharing with people, but it is also important to show how Jesus is affecting your life currently. Take some time to write how God has been working recently in your life, and how you are being an ambassador for Christ. Either use the space below or attach a copy of your testimony and send it to [info@cornerstoneye.ca](mailto:info@cornerstoneye.ca).

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