

Cornerstone Church



Membership Application

What is Membership About?

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?

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 Commitments:

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 be 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 Beliefs

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).

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

PMVV Statements - May 2023

- **Purpose** - Cornerstone Church exists to build and equip disciples who passionately seek, obey, and reflect Jesus.
- **Mission** - We build and equip disciples through being Jesus-centred in teaching, evangelism, fellowship, and prayer.
- **Vision** - Disciples equipped to reach and impact their communities by Jesus and for Jesus
- **Values:**
 - **Gospel Centered**
 - We believe the Good News of Jesus Christ as seen through all of Scripture, is the lens through which we orient our lives.
 - Jer 31:31-34, Psalm 119:1-16, Matt 4:4, 1 Thess 2:11-13
 - **Intentionally Relational (*With God and Others*)**
 - We recognize our inherent brokenness and need for a saviour, and as a result we aim to glorify God in all we do. By deepening our intimacy with God and growing in understanding of God's love for us, we will in turn learn to love others and build relationships with all people.
 - Psalm 139, John 13:34-35, Romans 12:5, Ephesians 4:1-4, Matt. 22:37-39
 - **Actively Serving**
 - We believe God is at work, so we are all called to serve using our gifts and talents as part of the body of Christ to glorify God and care for others.
 - Deuteronomy 10:12-13, James 2:17, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 28:18-20
 - **Continually Growing**
 - We believe the Christian walk is a lifetime journey and we are called to continuously grow in discipleship, becoming more like Jesus. This is done through spending time with God and practicing spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, reading the Bible, Christian fellowship etc).
 - Psalms 92:12-14, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Hebrews 5:14, 6:1, 1 Peter 2:2, 2 Peter 3:18, Gal 2:20