

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

1. Biblical concepts of membership.

We recognize that all persons who know Jesus as Savior are added to the universal church, which is the Bride of Christ. There is however evidence that the New Testament recognized definable groups of people in local areas that came together for fellowship. This local body of believers was a microcosm of the universal church. In Acts 2:41-42 the pattern for the early church that met at Jerusalem seemed to involve an "adding" to the church, implying a membership process. The "adding" was based on their acknowledgement of their faith in Christ.

2. Benefits of membership

a. Acceptance.

In Romans 15:7 an over-arching principle becomes the foundation of all relationships within the body of Christians, "Therefore accept one another just as Christ has accepted you." The membership process is never to be seen as a kind of admittance to an exclusive club, available only to the perfect and mature. We understand that the church is made up of fallen people who have been forgiven. Joining together as a local body of Christians is very beneficial to all involved.

b. True Community.

One of the gifts given to those who embrace the message of the Gospel, in addition to salvation, is that they are brought into a true community of fellowship. This introduction is best accomplished by becoming a member of a local fellowship of Christians. At CCC we encourage this official step of membership to help people embrace the beauty of this new community.

c. Sense of Belonging.

Membership provides a vehicle by which people can say, "I belong to these people and they belong to me." A person becomes part of a greater group of people whose needs are the same and who are committed to each other in their walk with God.

d. A Step of Commitment

Membership affirms the commitment of the individual to the well being of the local fellowship and also the commitment of the other Christians to him or her. It affirms the two-way street of ministry and being ministered to.

3. Responsibility of CCC to its members

- a. To provide opportunities to serve within the sphere of their spiritual giftedness.
- b. To provide relevant, life-related teaching under the power of God's Spirit.
- c. To provide opportunities for life-changing encounters with God through worship.
- d. To provide opportunities and vehicles of training so that members are equipped for ministry.
- e. To provide an environment for pastoral care and spiritual growth to encourage and support each member in their walk with God.

Responsibility of members to CCC

- a. That they use their spiritual gifts to minister to the church body.
- b. That they demonstrate their faith by Christ-like behavior in all they say and do and that they maintain loving relationships within the church body.
- c. That they embrace and promote doctrines and values embodied in the Church's Statements of Faith and Core Values.
- d. That they respect and cooperate with the elders of the church and work with them for the unity and well being of the church.
- e. That they share their resources for the ministry of the church.
- f. That they attend congregational meetings when possible and members 18 years of age and older may vote on issues listed in 6. below.

4. Requirements for membership

- a. That they be able to give a personal testimony of their faith in Christ.
We encourage Christians to be baptized as an expression of their faith.
- b. That they agree with CCC's Statement of Faith and can generally embrace the Core Values of the church.
- c. That, whenever possible, they attend the regular functions of the church, especially Sunday morning services. All members are encouraged

to be involved in one of the Life Groups, which are designed for nurture, learning and pastoral care.

5. Decision making

Members 18 years of age and older will be asked to vote on the following items.

- a. Approve the annual budget.
- b. Approve the annual financial statement.
- c. Approve the appointment of pastoral staff. (Senior pastor, teaching pastor and youth pastor)
- d. Approve major expenditures in excess of \$10,000 that are outside the annual budget.
- e. Approve any changes in the Philosophy of Ministry of the Church.
- f. Approve any building program, including the architect's plans, engagement of contractors, etc.

7. Procedure for membership

- a. After a person(s) has been attending services for six months he or she will be visited by two members of the Leadership Team or their delegates.
- b. If they are considering becoming members of the church they will be given a "New Members" packet which includes the handbook entitled "Philosophy of Ministry, Beliefs and Practices."
- c. After they have read the material, if they can affirm their faith in Christ, they will be welcomed publicly the following Sunday.
- d. Periodically the pastors will hold New Members classes to review the doctrines, core values and philosophy of ministry of CCC. Those considering membership will be asked to attend these classes.
- e. New members will sign a form agreeing to the various items listed above.
- f. When a person transfers from another church the pastoral staff may ask for confirmation of good standing from the leadership of the other church.

8. Termination of membership

Membership in the church can be terminated in the following ways:

- a. Relocation to another geographical area.
- b. Voluntary absence for an extended period of time.

c. Church discipline. (See 9 below)

9. Church discipline

Church discipline is the responsibility of the Leadership Team and is only considered when a member persists in pursuing a sinful path and refuses to work on restoration and fellowship. The objective of church discipline is to help bring about restoration, fellowship with God and to a renewal of a loving and joyful fellowship within the local body of Christians. Any disciplinary action would be taken only after due pastoral care, enquiry and prayer.

Issues that may require some kind of disciplinary action, when all attempts at restoration have failed, are as follows:

- a. A violation of Christian love (Matthew 18:15-17)
- b. A violation of Christian unity. (Romans 16:17)
- c. A violation of Christian morality. (1 Corinthians 5:1-13)
- d. A violation of Christian doctrine. (2 John 7-11)

In matters of serious violations, the Leadership Team may ask the individual to step aside from ministry activities for a period of time.

10. Involvement of members and non-members in the ministry of the church.
 - a. All teaching functions of the church must be carried out by members who are committed followers of Christ. (i.e. Sunday School and youth teachers, pulpit ministry, etc.)
 - b. The Leadership Team and Ministry Leaders must be members of the church.
 - c. Persons, other than members, are invited and encouraged to serve the church in other ministry areas.

CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

I have read the CCC's Statement of Faith, Statement of Core Values and Procedures for Membership and am delighted to commit myself to these principles and values as a member of Cambridge Community Church.

Member: _____

We hereby welcome _____ as a member of Cambridge Community Church.

Pastor/Elder: _____

Date _____