



Church membership



This leaflet has been produced by Dovedale Baptist Church to give you an introduction to what church membership is all about as we see it. We want to encourage you to become a member of our church, but we also want you to think seriously about what it means.

What's involved in being a church member?

When you become a church member, you come into this special "belonging" relationship with a group of like-minded Christians. This carries with it a number of privileges, and also a number of responsibilities.

Lifestyle

We expect church members to live a Christian life consistent with the good news of Jesus. This will affect the way we live our lives every day. We are to put our faith into practice in all we do in secular as well as church life, in our relationships, our home life, financial affairs and care for God's creation.

Worship

Church members are expected to share in the worship of the church each Sunday, and particularly to share in the communion service. We meet for worship to give as well as to receive.

Growing as a Christian

Church members should make it a priority to continue to grow in the faith. This will include spending time each day in prayer and Bible reading. It should also mean attending Bible Study and fellowship groups, training opportunities and meetings for prayer together.

Caring for one another

Church members commit ourselves to caring for one another's needs and living in love and unity with everyone else in the church.

Using your gifts

We have all been given gifts by God to be used in the church. Every member should

take part in the ministry of the church in ways that build up the church and develop their gifts.

Loyalty to the church

Members are expected to remain faithful to the church, to work towards the aims of the church as they have been agreed by the members, and to be loyal to the church leadership.

Giving

Each church member should give to the church regularly. The amount of money you give should be proportionate to your income and according to your own conscience. We as a church believe that the Bible's guideline for giving to God's work is one tenth of our income.

Decision making

Every church member should accept personal responsibility for the government of the church by attending church members' meetings and seeking to know God's will for the church.

Witnessing

Church members, along with all Christians should witness to the Lord Jesus Christ by word and action and be part of the evangelisation of the world. We should attempt to introduce people to Jesus and bring others to church by personal invitation, hospitality and love.

Membership and baptism

Dovedale Baptist Church believes that all Christians should be baptised as believers. We encourage everyone who applies to be a church member to be baptised, but we do not make it a necessary requirement for membership.

How do I become a church member?

First of all you have to be sure in your mind that you have a living personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, and that you want to be part of Dovedale church.

If you do, then the church will arrange for a couple of people to visit you. This isn't an "interview", but an opportunity for people to get to know you better and to make sure that you are ready for membership. These visitors report back to a church members' meeting, and if it seems right to the whole church you are accepted into membership.

You would normally be received into membership at the first communion service after the church meeting. and welcomed as a full member of the church.

If you've got any questions about anything on this leaflet, or anything else please do get in touch with our minister, Wayne Clarke on 0151 280 7253.