

Membership at Gateway



We're all in this together

Membership

God has given us a mission: *Leading people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus*

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Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
Romans 12:4-5

Throughout the New Testament, believers clearly identified themselves with a local church and were challenged to become committed members. They helped others grow as followers of Jesus and supported one another in their mission.

Membership benefits individuals. It helps all of us to move from only having good intentions to participating fully. Your decision to become a member shows your desire to belong and contribute to our Gateway family.

Formal membership is valuable and assists leaders of the church as they care for the church and nurture a core team who they can count on to build and sustain the church's ministries.

Membership Acknowledgement

Gateway Baptist Church is structured as a company limited by guarantee. By applying to be a member, you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- fill out the membership application form
- have your application approved by the Membership Committee
(The application form asks whether you have been baptised by immersion as a believer. If you have not, this does not necessarily preclude you from becoming a Member at Gateway, however you may be asked to give some more information about your faith journey).
- agree to Gateway Baptist Church's Statement of Faith
- commit to the Membership Covenant
- agree to be bound by the constitution, acknowledging a guarantee* up to \$10.

* this payment is only required in the unlikely event that Gateway Baptist Church ceases to exist as a company limited by guarantee.

It is our hope that, if you commit to membership, you will engage in membership processes including attending (either in person or via proxy) members meetings and forums.

Membership Covenant

Our God is faithful and gracious towards us. Having received Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we recognise that God has called us to live in community with himself and his people, and to follow Jesus together.

As members of Gateway Baptist Church

We affirm our commitment to love God by:

- regularly spending time in God's word and in prayer
- expressing our worship through regular participation in Sunday services
- seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit for our lives and our Church.

We affirm our commitment to love one another by:

- speaking the truth in love and forgiving one another
- caring for those in need with grace and mercy
- guarding our unity and the integrity of our Church and our leaders.

We affirm our commitment to live for Jesus by:

- bringing our lives into alignment with Jesus' teaching and example
- giving generously and sacrificially of our time, gifts and finances to see God's vision for this Church become a reality
- sharing the life changing message of Jesus with those we meet in our community, our nation and our world.

We, the members of Gateway Baptist Church, affirm our commitment to live for God's glory as we worship, fellowship and share His love.

Statement of Faith

As members of Gateway Baptist Church

We worship one, eternal God in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is unchangeable and infinitely good, revealing Himself as loving and personal.

We believe that the Bible is the inspired and infallible word of God that reveals God's plan for salvation. The Bible is addressed to all people and is the final authority for faith and conduct.

We believe that God created all things visible and invisible, and that He continues to care for His creation. God made man and woman in his own image intending that humankind live in fellowship with Him and with one another.

We believe that sin separates everyone from God. Sin is the attitude of independence and disobedience towards God, causing us to forfeit the destiny God planned. The outcome is eternal separation from God.

We believe that God the Father, showed His grace, love and mercy by sending Jesus the Son, to be born of the virgin Mary. Jesus lived a perfect earthly life, died on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins and rose again to life in His body. Jesus has now ascended to heaven where he intercedes for us until He returns.

We believe that Jesus, both fully divine and fully human, is the only mediator between God and humankind. We affirm salvation is a free and gracious gift from God to all who turn from their sin, place their faith in Jesus as their Saviour and declare Jesus to be their Lord.

We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit who was sent by God to continue the work of salvation. He draws people to Jesus, equipping and empowering them to be more like their Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We believe that every Christian is accountable to God for living a life of worship demonstrated by separation from sin, loving one another and contributing in work and action to spread the good news.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. The Church is Christ's body of believers who have personally come to faith in Him. We affirm that by declaring the good news of God's kingdom, the local Church is the hope of the world. The local Church provides opportunity for worship, fellowship and discipleship for believers.

We believe that Jesus commanded His Church to observe Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We affirm that Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water after declaration of faith in Jesus and that by observing the Lord's Supper we remember the death of Jesus until he returns.

We believe that it is in God's heart to draw people to himself from every tribe and language and people group and nation. God desires for everyone the opportunity to trust in Him and worship Him forever. We affirm that Jesus' command that His followers take His message of salvation to all nations and make disciples is central to the calling of His Church.

We believe that at an unknown moment in the future, Jesus will return personally and visibly to judge the living and the dead, overthrow evil and establish forever God's promised Kingdom. Unbelievers will be eternally separated from God, but believers will forever enjoy God's presence in the New Heaven and New Earth.