

MEMBERSHIP

If you are regularly attending Myton Church, we would encourage you to seriously consider becoming a church member. This clearly indicates that Myton Church is your spiritual home, that you want to play your part in the church's ongoing ministry and that you are willing to be helped by others to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

In order to be a member of the church, there are three simple requirements.

- 1 All members need to be Christian believers. Therefore, you will be asked to affirm your personal faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as both Lord and Saviour.
- 2 Members must agree with Myton Church's Statement of Faith. It is similar to the doctrinal statements of many other evangelical churches and organisations.
- 3 Members must 'respect' Myton Church's Statement of Practice. In using this term, we are recognising that evangelical Christians may differ in their views on some secondary matters. However, while not in any sense wanting to stifle genuine Biblical debate on these areas of difference, we would not expect members to deliberately undermine the church's stated practice by promoting dissent or creating factions.

[Our Statements of Faith and Practice can be found on the website](#)

Should you wish to become a member, please speak to one of the church elders. They will then arrange a convenient time to meet with you for an informal interview. New members are normally introduced to the church at our monthly Sunday morning communion services.

You will find it helpful to read through the following list of questions and answers that aim to clarify the Church's policy on membership. If you have any remaining questions, please contact one of the elders.

Why do we need church membership?

Primarily to help us all in fostering a greater sense of belonging, identity, and shared purpose in our calling to witness in today's context. In our culture, there is a growing reluctance to commit to anything or to take up long term responsibilities.

Isn't allegiance to Christ the important thing?

Absolutely - our relationship to Jesus Christ is of primary importance. However, the New Testament presupposes that all who follow Christ wholeheartedly will want to be building meaningful relationships with other believers. Therefore, church membership can be seen as a helpful way of expressing our allegiance to Christ.

Is there any biblical basis for church membership?

There is no particular text that specifies that churches should have formal memberships. However, there are indications in the New Testament that early church congregations were clear about who belonged to the church and who did not.

What are the requirements for membership of Myton Church?

Membership is open to any who affirm their faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God as their Lord and Saviour, who agree with our Statement of Faith and will respect our Statement of Practice.

How do I become a member?

Having read our Statements of Faith and Practice, if you wish to become a member you should notify a church elder. An informal interview with one of the elders will then be arranged. Unless there are concerns, you will then be given a membership form. Having satisfactorily completed the form, you will be introduced to the church at the next monthly morning communion service.

What if I cannot assent to the Statement of Faith?

Our Statement of Faith is similar to those of many other evangelical churches and organisations. If you have major disagreements with the Statement, you are probably in the wrong church. It may be that you are unsure about just a phrase or two. Feel free to raise this with one of the elders.

Why only 'respect our Statement of Practice' rather than agree with it?

Our Statement of Practice covers some secondary issues where Christians may legitimately disagree (for example, church government). Provided a person can respect the church's position on these issues and will not promote dissent concerning them, they can be a church member.

Do I have to be baptised as a believer to be a member?

No, provided that the church's practice of believer's baptism by immersion is understood and respected. Myton Church is made up of people from a wide range of denominational backgrounds, and many were baptised as infants. Having become Christians, most have subsequently been baptised as believers. However, in a few cases, individuals state they have meaningfully and publicly professed their faith by some other means (e.g. Confirmation) while in their previous denomination, usually many years ago. While not endorsing this, we would not want to deny membership to those in this position. However, we will continue to teach the necessity of baptism following conversion.

Is Communion restricted to church members?

No. Our practice is to welcome any Christian to take Communion with us. This includes visitors to our services. However, self-examination is always encouraged.

Are any church services or meetings restricted to members?

No. All our services, church meetings and housegroups are open to all.

Are there any roles in the church that are restricted to members?

We desire those who are involved in leadership or teaching roles in the church to be members. At present, all other opportunities for service are open to anyone attending the church.

What about those who are not yet Christians?

Those who are not Christians are not in a position to become members. However, they are able to attend all services and meetings as well as helping in practical ways.

What about children?

We recognise that children can make a meaningful profession of faith. However, just as we do not baptise young children neither would we expect them to be members until this is a meaningful decision.

Is the Church Directory a list of members?

No, we currently do not publish a list of members. The Church Directory includes not only members but everyone associated with the church.