

Church Membership



It's great that you're attending Blockhouse Bay Community Church and are now considering Church Membership. This brochure provides answers to the most commonly asked questions - if you have any others, please talk to the Pastor or the Elders.

What is Church Membership?

It's a formal way of expressing your commitment to the people of Blockhouse Bay Community Church and to the calling, culture, and future of the church under the leadership of Jesus Christ.

Do I have to become a Member?

No. Although we encourage this step of commitment it is not compulsory, and we don't put any pressure on people to become members.

Can I be involved in ministry if I'm not a Member?

Yes. The only ministries that are restricted to members are the key Leadership roles of Elders and Ministry Team leaders, however we do expect everyone involved in teaching ministries to affirm our Statement of Faith.

Am I going to be asked to do a lot more after I become a Member?

No. We have a culture which encourages everyone to be actively involved in ministry and committed to their local church regardless of their membership status.

Is Church Membership mentioned in the Bible?

Not directly, but the principle of commitment to God's people is. Church Membership is simply a formal expression of your commitment to a local body of Christians.

Can I transfer my Membership from another church?

No. Every church has its own way of dealing with church membership and so we ask everyone to go through the application procedure explained in the following paragraphs.

Is there a minimum age for Membership?

Yes, you must be at least 16 years old.

Is there a Statement of Faith I need to affirm?

Yes. Blockhouse Bay Community Church is a member of the Alliance Churches of New Zealand and we affirm their statement of faith listed on the following pages. If you have any questions about our beliefs, please talk to the Pastor or the Elders.

What are the benefits of a becoming a Member?

Any deepening of commitment with God's people will bring a blessing. Psalm 133 speaks of the blessing of unity which church membership encourages. On a more tangible note, you will become eligible to vote at Church business meetings which discuss important issues concerning the life and ministries of BBCC. You also become eligible to serve in our Leadership Team (Elders & Ministry Team leaders) if you are suitably gifted and available.

If I want to become a Member, what do I do?

Read this brochure, fill out the attached application form, and hand it to either the Pastor or one of the Elders.

What happens after I hand in my application form?

The Pastor & Elders will arrange to meet with you and discuss your application. They will ask you to share your Christian testimony, including when you were baptised as a teenager or an adult, and give you an opportunity to ask any questions about Blockhouse Bay Community Church. After this meeting, and subject to a recommendation from the Elders, you are welcomed into Membership during the next convenient Sunday morning service.

Some final thoughts...

When you were born again, you automatically became a part of God's universal family, but you also need to become a member of a local expression of God's family.

Why is it important to join a local church family? Because it proves you are committed to your spiritual brothers and sisters in reality, not just in theory. God wants you to love real people, not ideal people. You can spend a lifetime searching for the perfect church, but you will never find it. You are called to love imperfect sinners, just as God does

Joining the membership of a local church is the natural next step once you've become a child of God.

"The Purpose Driven Life", Rick Warren
A Place to Belong, pp 136, 137

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Blockhouse Bay Community Church is a member of the
Alliance Churches of New Zealand and affirms the following beliefs:

A. There is one God,¹ Creator of all things,² who is infinitely perfect,³ and existing eternally in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.⁴

¹Isaiah 44:6; 45:5-6, 21-22; ²Genesis 1; Colossians 1:15, 16. ³Matthew 5:48; Deuteronomy 32:4. ⁴Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

B. Jesus Christ is true God and true man.⁵ He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.⁶ He died upon the cross, the Righteous for the unrighteous, as a substitutionary sacrifice,⁷ and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.⁸ He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures.⁹ He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high¹⁰ as our great High Priest.¹¹ He will come again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and peace.¹²

⁵Philippians 2:6-11; Hebrews 1:2, 3; 2:14-18; Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9. ⁶Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:35. ⁷1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 2:2; 4:9, 10. ⁸Romans 3:22-25. ⁹1 Corinthians 15:3-6. ¹⁰Hebrews 1:3, 8:1 ¹¹Hebrews 4:14-15; 9:24-28. ¹²Matthew 25:31-34.

C. The Holy Spirit is a divine person, sent to indwell, guide, teach, and empower the believer for godly living and service, to bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.¹³

¹³John 14:16-17; John 16:7-15.

D. The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, whose words were inspired by God, are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of all people. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.¹⁴

¹⁴2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21.

E. People were originally created in the image and likeness of God; they fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death.¹⁵ Subsequently all people are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through faith in the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.¹⁶ The destiny of the unrepentant and unbelieving is everlasting separation from God in conscious torment (Hell); but that of the believer is everlasting joy and blessing in the presence of the Lord (Heaven).¹⁷

¹⁵Genesis 1:27, 3; ¹⁶Romans 3:9-12; 22-25; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 4:17-18. ¹⁷Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 14:10-11

F. Salvation has been provided only through Jesus Christ for all people.¹⁸ Those who repent and believe in Him are justified freely by His grace, are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God.¹⁹

¹⁸John 3:16; Titus 3:5-7; Acts 2:38. ¹⁹Ephesians 1:7; Romans 3:22-25; 1 Corinthians 6:11; John 1:12.

G. It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified thoroughly, thereby being separated from the power of sin and conformity to the

world, and being fully dedicated to the will of God, receiving power for holy living and sacrificial and effective service toward the completion of Christ's commission.²⁰ This is both a distinct encounter and a progressive experience in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion.²¹

²⁰ 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Acts 1:8; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-25; ²¹ 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 6:1-4; 1 John 2:15-17

H. Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body.²² Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil as taught in the Scriptures are privileges for the Church in this present age.²³

²² Matthew 8:16-17. ²³ James 5:14-16.

I. The universal Church consists of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church. He has commissioned the Church to go to all nations as a witness of the Gospel.²⁴



The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, which includes being built up through the Word of God, prayer, fellowship, the observance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the witness of the Gospel locally and globally.²⁵

²⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:6-12; Matthew 16:18; 28:19-20. ²⁵ Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Acts 1:8

J. There shall be a bodily resurrection of all people.²⁶ For believers a resurrection to life;²⁷ for unbelievers a resurrection to judgement.²⁸

²⁶ John 5:25-29; Acts 24:15-16; ²⁷ 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; ²⁸ 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10.

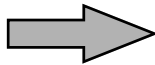
K. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent, and will be personal and visible.²⁹ As the believer's blessed hope, this vital truth is an incentive to holy living and faithful service toward the completion of Christ's commission.³⁰

²⁹ Matthew 24:29-31; Acts 1:7-11; 1 Corinthians 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:8-9; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 22:7,12; ³⁰ Matthew 28:18-20; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 3:10-13

Thanks for reading this brochure

If you would like to become a Member of
Blockhouse Bay Community Church please:

1. Fill in the application form
2. Cut it off along the dotted line
3. Hand it to the Pastor or one of the Elders



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Blockhouse Bay Community Church

A member of the Alliance Churches of New Zealand

- I am a committed Christian who has put my faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- I have made a public confession of my faith through water baptism.
- I affirm the Statement of Faith of Blockhouse Bay Community Church (and the Alliance Churches of New Zealand).
- I affirm the Alliance's desire to be a Christ Centred, Bible Believing, Spirit Empowered, Missional Movement of Local Churches and will support unity between our churches and the support of local and overseas ministry promoted through the Alliance.
- I am committed to the Calling, Culture and Ministries of Blockhouse Bay Community Church and will endeavour to support the church by regular attendance, by submitting to its leadership as unto the Lord, and by the stewardship of my finances, time, talents and gifts.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

CHURCH OFFICE USE ONLY

Meeting date with Pastor/Elders: _____

Met by: _____

Check List:

Christian Testimony: _____

Teen/Adult Baptism: _____

Doctrinal Statement: _____

Brief intro to the Alliance: _____

Importance of Members Meetings: _____

Any Questions: _____

Comments

Recommendation to Accept: Yes No

Date Welcomed into Membership: _____