

Questions or Further Information.

If you have any questions about membership or would like to have further information, please talk to Pastor Ross or one of the elders. We are always ready to help.

Becoming a member of a local church:

Is a defining moment in our Christian walk. It is a statement that we take our commitment to Christ seriously enough to make a commitment to Christ's church in a local place.

Membership also allows the opportunity to help make key decisions affecting the church's future.

This will involve:

- Partnership – being a committed, proactive member of the team
- Supporting the leaders you helped elect
- Corporate worship and prayer
- Mission – outreach to the un-churched
- Seeking to reach unbelievers through your example and testimony
- Teaching and discipleship
- Ministering to the needs of the body
- Using your gifts

“Church membership is our opportunity to grasp hold of each other in responsibility and love. By identifying ourselves with a particular church, we let the pastors and other members of that local church know that we intend to be committed in attendance, giving, prayer, and service. We allow fellow believers to have great expectations of us in these areas, and we make it known that we are the responsibility of this local church. We assure the church of our commitment to Christ in serving with them, and we call for their commitment to serve and encourage as well”.

Dr Mark Dever – “Nine Marks of a Healthy Church”

Membership



fairfield baptist church

Connect, Care, Commit & Contribute

1101 Heaphy Terrace
PO BOX 12110
Chartwell
Hamilton 3214
Phone: 07 855 5469
Email: office@fairfieldbaptist.co.nz
Website: www.fairfieldbaptist.co.nz

Why does church membership matter?

So, you are thinking about becoming a church member...It is certainly a very important decision, one of the most important we will ever make in our life. It may seem like it is an easy one, but we all have questions like: "Is it even necessary to apply for formal membership, or will it matter if I don't"?

Legal Requirements for Churches.

- The Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1923 gave the Baptist Union of New Zealand its legal status as an umbrella organisation for the Baptist Churches throughout the country.
- Fairfield Baptist Church, as in nearly all Baptist churches associated with the Baptist Union of New Zealand operate under a 'Congregational' style of government.
- This means that the congregational members have the final say in significant decisions for the life of the church.

Membership Reflects What the Church Is:

- Individualist Christianity is a myth and a damaging pursuit. Christ has redeemed us, and we are placed in the body.
- Becoming a member of a local church is a defining moment in our Christian walk. It is a statement that we take our commitment to Christ seriously enough to make a commitment to Christ's church in a local place.
- Membership is a reflection of the organic community already existing in the body. Paul says in (1 Corinthians 12), we are a body, so can one part say to the other, "I'm not part of you"? No, it is already a part, but too often, we can live as if we are separated.
- A Member belongs to a community of those who believe in God the Father, in His Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit – one God; who are repentant of sin and have been saved by personal faith in Jesus Christ through His atoning death and resurrection; who publicly confess their faith and who are committed to the church's aims and functions.
- When we join a church, we are offering ourselves to one another to be encouraged, rebuked, corrected, and served. We are placing ourselves under

leaders and submitting to their authority (Heb. 13:7). We are saying, "I am here to stay. I want to help you grow in godliness. Will you help me to do the same?"

How do I become a Church Member:

1. Along with approximately 60% of New Zealand Baptist Churches, Fairfield Baptist Church has become an open membership church.
2. Open membership churches still believe in, teach and practice baptism by immersion, but it is not now the only requirement for someone to become a member.
3. The commitment for membership also enables those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ; have committed their lives to Him; are presently seeking to follow Him; and live lives that honour Him, to become members.
4. Complete an application form (available from the office) and the FBC leaders will talk with you, answer any questions and submit your application to the wider leadership team.
5. Your request is published in the church bulletin for two weeks after which, you will formally be welcomed into membership.

¹ The Act of incorporation is Statute law and is:

1) A legal safeguard against Baptist land or property being used contrary to the Act

2) A legal safeguard in the event a Baptist minister no longer holds to the Article of Faith in the Act, by apostasy or through misconduct and is therefore disqualified under the Act.