



Introduction to Membership

Who? What? Why? How?

Updated November, 2024

What is a Church Member?

- The Bible uses various metaphors to describe an individual believer's relationship with God and the Church.
- We are citizens of the heavenly kingdom who gather in local assemblies (*Philippians 3:20, Colossians 1:13-14, Matt 16:18*).
- We are also children in God's household and stones in the temple where the Holy Spirit dwells (*Ephesians 2:20-22*).
- And we are also "parts," or "members" of the Body of Christ, which is the Church – as each believer receives direction from the Head and serves a unique function for the common good (*1 Corinthians 12:27; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:16*).

Who can be a Church Member?

- To become a member of this particular church family, one should first be part God's family (*Galatians 3:26-28*)
- ***We ask this to be expressed through a personal confession of faith (testimony) to the congregation or leaders, baptism, and agreement with our EFCC Statement of Faith.***

What does a Church Member do?

- As disciples of Christ, we are committed to follow His teaching and participate in His mission (*Mark 1:14-17; Matt 28:19-20*)
- This involves a commitment to love one another (*John 13:35*), to regularly meet for encouragement (*Hebrews 10:24-25*), and to live lives that reflect the gospel (*Philippians 1:27*) – such unity also serves as a witness to others (*John 17:21*)
- As a part of Christ's Body, members are called to serve one another with the gifts given to them through the Holy Spirit (*1 Cor 12:7; Rom 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11*)
- In order to support the collective ministry and mission of the local church, members joyfully contribute financially from what God has provided them (*Numbers 18:21; Malachi 3:10; Romans 15:26; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*)

How does a Member function in the local church?

- As parts who are equally under One Head (*Colossians 1:18*), members participate in major collective decisions such as leadership selection, finances, and general agreements/laws (*Acts 6:3-6; 11:29-30, 15:2-4, 12, 22; 21:4*)
- ***Parkdale holds two Congregational Meetings each year: for leadership selection (Nov) and budget approval (Feb)***
- Qualified Members can serve in leadership positions in the church (*Mark 10:42-45; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1:6-9 1 Peter 5:1-4*)
- When leaders are recognized and appointed in the church, members should support & be accountable to them (*1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:7, 17*)
- Members are also called to keep one another accountable, participating in collective discipline & reconciliation (*Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Corinthians 2:6*)
- Because all believers are recognized as priests and ambassadors of Christ, members represent Christ and His Church to the world as they serve in their various ministries (*1 Peter 2:5-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20*)

How do I become a Church Member?

- Talk to the pastor or a church leader to express your interest and to become familiar with the church and EFCC SoF
- Ensure that you've been baptized in a meaningful way as an expression of repentance & faith among God's people
- Prepare a testimony to share with the leaders and/or the congregation. A 5-minute Testimony can include:
 - *Some background of your life (perhaps a story)*
 - *How you became a Christian & the difference it made*
 - *How you came to Parkdale & would like to be involved*
 - *A key verse to share!*
- New members are celebrated and welcomed in a Sunday service, and officially recognized at a congregational meeting

Key Verses:

1 Corinthians 12:27 – *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

Galatians 3:26-28 – *So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ...for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

John 13:35 – *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Hebrews 10:24-25 – *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Philippians 1:27 – *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.*

John 17:21 – *that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

1 Peter 4:10 – *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

2 Corinthians 9:7 – *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Acts 6:3 – *Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them*

Hebrews 13:17 – *Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.*

2 Corinthians 5:20 – *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*