

Membership at River Church

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Anointed by the Spirit of the Lord to release Freedom and New Life

River Church Vision, from Luke 4 and Isaiah 61

Everyone who believes in and follows Jesus is a member of his body, the Church. Committing to a fellowship or congregation within the Church is a normal, spiritually responsible way of participating in God's work of building his Kingdom here. At River Church, we believe that we are called to do this under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, by releasing freedom and new life, in our community, our families and wherever God directs!

River Church is part of the Elim Movement and stands in agreement with the Elim Foundational Truths. For more information about this, please speak to Pastor Dave.

By committing to be a member of River Church, you:

- **Agree to contribute** to the vision of River Church
- **Acknowledge a mutual responsibility** to serve the congregation of the Church
- **Invite the pastoral ministry** of the senior minister, leadership team and other members
- **Partner with the spiritual works** of prayer, evangelism, deliverance, discipleship
- **Participate in annual elections** to approve appointments to Church Leadership
- **Support the work** of the church by giving in generosity of spirit
- **Stand in agreement** with the Elim Foundational Truths

This commitment is answered by the commitment of the leadership team of the church to:

- **Value** and make place for your spiritual gifts
- **Encourage**, exhort and teach you, in godliness and spiritual growth
- **Honour** God's call upon your life

A Family

We are called to be a family, honouring, loving and serving one another as we love and serve the Lord. We have a duty to collectively meet each others' needs - spiritually and practically. "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2). If you see a need within the family and can meet it, then do what you can to meet it - and if you cannot, speak to another in the family, including the leaders. For example, we are all commissioned to pray for and encourage one another. We should also be ready to be generous to one another so that "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35).

Age Requirements

Membership is for adult believers (18 or older) because of the responsibilities that come with the commitment.

Ministry

All believers, whether members, visitors or friends, are invited to participate in the practical and spiritual ministry of River Church. What this looks like differs greatly: "But in fact, God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." (1 Cor. 12:18). If you'd like to know more, please speak to any of the leaders.

During a Sunday service of worship, everyone should have chance to offer their genuine expression of praise, together with other spiritual offerings: "What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up." (1 Cor 14:26)

Those wishing to serve regularly within an area of the church's ministry (eg worship team, hospitality etc) are normally members and may be asked to commit to a further time of preparation as appropriate.

Messaging and Social Media

Church WhatsApp groups, Youtube Channel, website and other social media are available to facilitate fellowship, to edify the body and to keep us in communication with one another. Anything shared on these church groups must be in agreement with the Church's vision and position of faith. The Leaders maintain the right to remove anything that they judge not to fit these criteria.

River Christian Centre

Members of River Church are also responsible for the election of Trustees for our linked Charity, River Christian Centre. This means that we as the church hold the ultimate responsibility for the operation of the Centre and is another reason for a formal register of members.

Financial Support

We do not require members to give a specified amount of financial support, but we do expect our members to be generous and faithful in their giving. This is a matter for each household to bring before the Lord and to act as they feel convicted.

Applying for Membership

Application for membership is normally by verbal inquiry, followed by discussion with the Senior Minister. Your application will be discussed at a leadership meeting and, if accepted, enacted during a Sunday service, giving us the opportunity to welcome you in prayer and anointing.

Leaving Membership

We hope that anyone interested in membership would ultimately feel that God is calling them to commit to our church. If (or when!) God calls you elsewhere, we want to be able to release you to follow His leading and bless you when you go. Talk to a Leader or the Senior Minister.

The Elim Foundational Truths

The Bible

We believe the Bible, as originally given, to be without error, the fully inspired and infallible Word of God and the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

The Trinity

We believe that the Godhead exists co-equally and co-eternally in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and that these three are one God, sovereign in creation, providence and redemption.

The Saviour

We believe in the true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His real and complete humanity, in His sinless life, in His authoritative teaching, in His substitutionary and atoning sacrifice through His blood shed, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His heavenly intercession and His second advent to receive His Church.

The Holy Spirit

We believe in the deity of the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son and the necessity of His work in conviction of sin, repentance, regeneration and sanctification, and that the believer is also promised an enduement of power as the gift of Christ through the baptism in the Holy Spirit with signs following. Through this enduement, the believer is empowered for fuller participation in the ministry of the Church, its worship, evangelism and service.

Mankind

We believe in the universal sinfulness of all men since the Fall, rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

Salvation

We believe in the necessity for salvation of repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by which the sinner is pardoned and accepted as righteous in God's sight. This justification is imputed by the grace of God because of the atoning work of Christ, is received by faith alone and is evidenced by the Fruit of the Spirit and a holy life.

The Church

We believe in the spiritual unity and the priesthood of all believers in Christ and that these comprise the universal Church, the Body of Christ.

The Ministry

We believe in the ministries that Christ has set in His Church, namely, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers and in the present operation of the manifold Gifts of the Holy Spirit according to the New Testament.

The Ordinances

We believe in the baptism of believers by immersion in water in obedience to the command of Christ and in the commemoration of Christ's death by the observance of the Lord's Supper until His return.

The Commission

We believe that the Gospel embraces the needs of the whole man and that the Church is therefore commissioned to preach the Gospel to the world and to fulfil a ministry of healing and deliverance to the spiritual and physical needs of mankind.

The Coming King

We believe in the personal, physical and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign in power and glory.

The Future State

We believe in the resurrection of the dead and in the final judgement of the world, the eternal conscious bliss of the righteous and the eternal conscious punishment of the wicked.