

CONNECT

BAPTIST CHURCH

- DEAGON



**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AT
CONNECT BAPTIST CHURCH
DEAGON**

STEPS TO BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER AT CONNECT BAPTIST CHURCH

1. **You need to read the membership and vision class booklets.** These can be accessed on line or by emailing the office at office@connectbc.org.au, so you can understand the philosophy and ministry of the Connect Baptist Church-Deagon. (Baptism is also a requirement of membership at this church so if you haven't been baptised please see a pastor first and you can be guided through that process.) **You will need to watch a video on line and then let one of the pastors know you have completed the class.** You will be able to ask any questions about the life and direction of the church as well as the vision for the future of the church in person, by phone or by email.

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2. **You will then need to fill out the Application for Membership form** that is available in the back of the membership booklet or may be downloaded from our website.

When your application is received your name will appear in the Staying Connected at the beginning of the month stating that you are applying for membership. (If you are being baptised as well, you will need to speak with one of the pastoral team.)

If you are transferring from another Baptist church **we will contact the church to arrange for the transfer**, however the Connect vision and Membership classes are still required.

3. **Activating Membership: We will arrange for you to come forward during a service** as soon as is practicable after the above has been completed and pray for you and welcome you into membership. We will ask you to sign the members register on that Sunday.

4. **Ideally this whole process should only take about a month** from application to reception. However there are many potential hold ups and sometimes it takes longer. If you are wondering what has happened to your membership application please contact us and we will gladly tell you where it is up to.

5. **Once you're a member it doesn't stop there!** We encourage you to be active in the life of the church and are excited about the opportunity for you to use your giftedness at a local level to continue your development and assist others to develop strong relationships with God, each other and our community.

WHY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

The word membership is not used in the Bible as we would use the word. For us as a church, membership means more about a group of **Christians who identify around a God given Purpose, Values and Vision.** (See attached booklet). Membership is about giving through serving others (Mark 12:34). We all become members of the "Church" when we receive Christ, but which Church is determined by the

leading of God through his Holy Spirit and a particular Church's Vision.

Some people are happy to just be Christians and not be linked with any church. While this idea may be appealing, it is not the teaching of the New Testament. Joining the church wasn't optional in the book of Acts. The new converts were "added to the church" (Acts 2:41-42, 46-47), that is added to the local group of Christians. There is a strong sense of an extended Christian family.

The Scriptures also command us to worship regularly together (Heb. 10:25), and all the teaching about spiritual gifts and ministry to each other (e.g. Romans 12:3-21; 1 Corinthians 12) implies that we are committed to each other in a permanent relationship. You just can't get around the fact that God wants us in a church family.

Becoming a member means:

You are choosing to commit yourself to this family of God through good times and bad, until God calls you to serve somewhere else. The church family will be able to count on you to support them, serve them, and encourage them in the great times and in the tough times. We as a Church Family will also commit ourselves to hang in there with you no matter what you are going through.

You will also commit yourself to the leadership of the church and support them as they carry out their God given tasks.

What are the privileges of membership?

Everyone in the church family enjoys the privileges of Bible teaching, friendship, pastoral care, practical support, church programs and ministries, worship services, and assistance towards Christian growth.

Some special privileges pertaining to church members include:

- You can help us discern God's will in the major decisions the church needs to make.
- You are eligible to become a leader in the church if you are suitably gifted.
- You have the opportunity to be accountable to other members of the family as you minister with them.
- The Church Family will share the responsibility to assist you as best we can in your spiritual growth. We will endeavour to be there to encourage you to press on and be there for you in all the seasons of life.



IS MEMBERSHIP IMPORTANT?

Six Reasons to Join a Church

Many attend but never join; here's the case for making things official.

- 1. Membership says,** "I belong here," and God says that believers belong together (Heb. 10:23-25). You sense that God wants you here with the people of Connect Baptist Church-Deagon at this time in your Christian life, and you want to make a public declaration that you are committed to God's work through this church. This is born out of my "Up Relationship" with the Father.
- 2. Membership says,** "We share the same ministry goals and values," and God says that believers are to be committed to one another for the sake of spiritual impact (Eph. 4:16). You believe that Jesus has a work to do in our community, and around the world, and you're willing to join with others to see that it gets done. We can develop our "Out Relationships" better as a team.
- 3. Membership says,** "I accept responsibility for a group of fellow believers in the family of God," and that's God's plan as well (Gal. 6:1-2, 10). You want to be part of a caring network of people, developing "In Relationships" sharing one another's joys and sorrows, and helping one another grow through worship, Bible study, and fellowship.

4. **Membership says,** "I am accountable to mature brothers and sisters in Christ for my walk with God," and God warns against spiritual autonomy (Heb. 13:17; Matt. 18:15-20). You don't want to go it alone in standing for Jesus Christ, and want to receive the guidance, equipping, and assistance necessary to remain on target.

5. **Membership says,** "I accept responsibility for how things are done here," and God says that's how it should be (1 Cor. 12:20-27). Members elect Elders, approve an annual ministry budget, as well as call the senior pastor and approve other pastoral positions to serve as our spiritual leaders. Every member has a say in shaping our church's direction and ministry goals.

6. **Membership says,** "I have found a place to use my giftedness for the sake of building up the local church as a part of the Kingdom of God and making a difference." (Eph. 4, 1 Corinth. 12) The Christian life is one of service and commitment to being a producer rather than just a consumer (John 15; the vine).



RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. REGULAR FELLOWSHIP

I recognise the importance of regular fellowship with my church family and will therefore make every effort to attend each Sunday and to serve the Kingdom as God leads.

2. SUPPORT AND MINISTRY

I recognise that the church family needs my support if it is to grow and be built up and therefore I will support my church family in prayer, encouragement, financial giving, practical help and the use of my gifts in ministry as the Lord enables me.

3. CHRISTIAN GROWTH

I recognise that as a Christian I need to grow to maturity and therefore I will allow God to grow me through Spiritual disciplines like Bible reading, prayer, service, teaching, and the application of what I learn in my life.

4. MISSION

I recognise that I have been called to share Jesus with my family, friends, neighbours, and world and therefore I will make every effort to communicate to others about Jesus and to be involved in other ways to see God's Kingdom expanded. To live a life that reflects the words, works and ways of Jesus.

5. LOVE

I recognise that love needs to be the dominating motivation in my life and therefore I want my church family to help me love God, love my brothers and sisters, love my "neighbour", love my enemy, and love myself

MEMBERSHIP – BAPTISM

Members at Connect Baptist need to be baptised. We practise Baptism by immersion as we believe that this is the method that best follows the teaching of scripture.

Baptism is part of the discipleship process; it is for those who have a relationship with God. Please arrange to read the pamphlet on Baptism and discuss the process with your leader or one of the Pastors.



Jack's Baptism



Eli's Baptism

MY COMMITMENT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Saviour and been baptised, and being in agreement with the church's Vision Values and Purpose; I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the "Connect Baptist Church-Deagon" Family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church

- *By acting in love toward other members.*
- *By refusing to gossip.*
- *By following the leaders.*

"So Let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony and on the growth of our fellowship together." Rom. 15:19 (Ph)

"Live in complete harmony with each other - each with the attitude of Christ toward each other." Rom. 15:5 (LB)

"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all of your hearts." 1 Pet. 22 (GN)

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs." Eph.4:29

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you." Heb.13:17



2. I will share the responsibility of my church

- *By praying for its growth.*
- *By relating to those who don't know Jesus and inviting them to attend where possible services and events that will lead them to Christ.*
- *By warmly welcoming those who visit.*

"To the church, we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly." 1 Thess. 1:2

"Go out into the country, and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full." Luke 14:3 (LB)

"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified" Rom. 15:7 (LB)



3. I will serve the ministry of my church

- *By discovering my gifts and talents for service.*
- *By being equipped to serve with others.*
- *By developing a servant's heart.*

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you." 1 Pet. 4:10 (Ph)

"God gave ... some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up... "Eph 4:11-12

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ... who took on the very nature of a servant..." Phil 2:3-4:7

**SERVE BECAUSE YOU
WANT TO BE USEFUL TO
OTHERS, NOT BECAUSE
YOU WANT TO BE
PRAISED.**

4. I will support the testimony of my church

- *By attending faithfully.*
- *By living a Godly life.*
- *By giving regularly.*

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, but let us encourage one another."
Heb. 10:25

"But what ever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ."
Phil. 1:27 (Ph)

"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering." I Cor. 16:2

"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." Lev. 27:30

Application for Membership at Connect Baptist Church - Deagon

I, (*print name*): _____

Wish to apply for membership of Connect Baptist Church-Deagon.

Baptism Date /...../.....

Baptism Location: _____

Membership Class completed:/...../.....

Vision Class completed:/...../.....

Signed Date / / .

Office Use only

Received by: (print name) _____

Signature: _____

Date Appeared in Bulletin: ____/____/____

Welcomed into membership date: ____/____/____

Comments: _____

Contact Details (if we don't already have them)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Postal Address: _____
