

MEMBERSHIP.

Our heart is to be a community of people who are seeking to sacrifice and serve for the Kingdom of God. As such, membership is an invitation to not simply passively observe, but to be a part of the fabric of who we are and what we are doing as a church, to partner with us in Kingdom work.

Our heart for members, is for us to '**Love God and Love HVBC**.' As such, prospective members need to have read and understood the *Vision, Values, Purpose* and *Statement of Beliefs* contained in our vision document, and have a desire to pursue a life that reflects these. We recognise and allow for different theological view points that fall within Biblical Christianity, and for different levels of maturity in the Christian journey, believing this is crucial to being an authentic community of faith.

It is important for us as leadership to know who we are spiritually and relationally responsible for. We want to stand with you and support you; to pray for you and with you. While we are committed to doing this well beyond our members, we have a particular responsibility for those who see HVBC as home. Phil, our Senior Pastor, regularly prays through the membership role, interceding for you in times of joy and struggle.

As a leadership and as a church, we need to be held accountable to the purpose, vision and values that God has called us to, making sure we are rooted in Scripture and led by the Holy Spirit.

Church membership puts value on every voice and every story, allowing them to become part of our story, and to see those amplified in ways that echo in eternity.

As members, we vote together for the appointment of new Ministry and Church Leaders and for significant property and financial decisions. This is more than just offering an opinion, it is a prayerful decision to support and empower that person or ministry, whatever the outcome might be.

We partner in sharing our gifts and talents, serving in different areas of ministry and taking ownership of the ways God is calling us to express His heart in our community.

What is a church member? Why become a member?

We recognise, as the early New Testament Church did, that our finances and resources are something that God wants to redeem and use for His Glory, and continue on in the tradition of both the Old and New Testament of tithing faithfully into the church.

We see the value in meeting together regularly, encouraging each other in word and deed, devoting ourselves to the teaching of the Word and worship.

We recognise that God is calling us to be the church, transforming how we see our neighbourhoods, taking responsibility for those who we live side by side with.

We are committed to praying for each other and the ministry of HVBC, recognising that it is only from a posture of unified prayer that our 'good works' become of eternal significance. When we recognise that we are the church, we don't seek to criticise and tear down, instead we commit ourselves to being part of the change.

Process:

- Read and pray over the current Vision Document, specifically our *Vision, Values, Purpose* and *Statement of Belief*
- Come to a new member's information lunch (depending on time of year), or meet with our Senior Pastor, Phil, or one of our leaders
- A Church Leader or Ministry Leader will follow you up and see if you wanted to go ahead with membership
- Fill out the membership form (available on the website) with your contact details (accessible only by leadership) and your name will be added to the role
- While children under 18 cannot be included in the official church membership because of the legal voting process, we recognise and affirm them as committed and growing members of our church. Therefore, we are establishing a role for minors, that keeps us accountable to pray for and support them, and gives value to their voices and stories in the fabric of our church