

What does membership mean?

Church membership is about involvement and activity. It is not passive. It means:

Protecting the unity of my church

By acting in love toward the other members (Romans 14:19)

By abiding by the terms of DBC's Statement of Faith and Values (1 Timothy 4:16)

By co-operating with DBC's leadership (Hebrews 13:17)

Sharing the responsibility of my church

By discovering my gifts and talents and using them as directed by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 4:10)

By being intentional in my personal discipleship and spiritual growth (Philippians 3: 12-14)

By developing a servant's heart and a teachable spirit (Philippians 2:2, 4 7)

Supporting the testimony of my church

By attending services faithfully (Hebrews 10:25)

By living a prayerful and Godly life (Philippians 1:27)

By contributing financially on a regular basis (1 Corinthians 16:2)

By making the most of every opportunity to communicate the gospel to others (Matthew 28:19)

Baptism and Church Membership

According to the Bible, repentance and faith ought to be demonstrated by baptism (Acts 2:38). Jesus Himself was baptised and He commands His followers to do the same (Matthew 28:18 20). Baptism is a sign of our commitment to Christ and to living a new life serving Him. It is for these reasons

we encourage prospective members of Dumfries Baptist Church to be baptised.

If you want to discover more about baptism, there is a leaflet available from the Church Office or at the Welcome Desk.

The benefits of church membership

You receive care from other believers (Galatians 6:10)

You receive teaching from God's Word (Acts 2:42)
You can develop and exercise your gifts (1Corinthians 12:7-27)

You are encouraged in your faith by other believers (Hebrews 10:24-25)

You develop accountability relationships within the church (Proverbs 27:17; Ephesians 5:21)

You participate in church decisions (Acts 6:5-6; 2 Corinthians 8:19)

You are placed under the spiritual protection of godly leaders (Hebrews 13:17)

How do I become a member of Dumfries Baptist Church?

If you are enthusiastic about the vision of Dumfries Baptist Church, believe the things we teach and wish to get involved, we want you on board! If you would like to become a participating member; ask one of the Leadership Team and they can tell you more.

Dumfries Baptist Church

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**Dumfries
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Membership

**Dumfries
Baptist
Church**

What is Membership?

Church membership is not about signing a contract or joining a club.

It is one thing to attend church, it is quite another thing to become a participating member of a local church.

While the term 'church member' never occurs in the Bible, it is clear that Christians were committed to each other in local Christian communities. Christians met together for teaching, caring, sharing communion, mission and prayer. When Paul wrote letters, it is clear there are local congregations of believers committed to each other because they are committed to God, and they meet regularly together (Acts 13:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 16:2,19).

How does the Bible define church membership?

The New Testament does not describe a local church full of attendees only, but rather describes a church full of participating members using their gifts, talents and abilities for the glory of God (Romans 12:4-5, 1Corinthians 12:12 and Ephesians 4:16).

The moment we trust Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we become members of the world-wide body of Christ, which is the church. To grow as a disciple of Jesus, believers should identify with a specific local church and actively participate in Christian ministry.

Membership Criteria

First and foremost you need to be a Christian.

A Christian is someone who has made a commitment to accept Jesus personally as their Lord and Saviour and to live in obedience to Him (Acts 2:38). Accepting Jesus as Lord also means obeying His command to be baptised. Members must be in agreement with DBC's Statement of Faith and Values.

Members commitment to our vision

We believe that we are firstly **Created to Worship** the one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our worship includes the whole of our lived experience within and outwith the context of church.

We believe that God is calling us to be an inclusive Christian community made up of people who have found salvation through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are **Commissioned to Reach** all those who do not yet know Christ, believing that salvation comes through hearing the Gospel good news proclaimed and by witnessing to the reality of God's incarnational love, lived out in our lives on a daily basis.

Within the church we are committed to genuine biblical Christian fellowship and discipleship,

leading to maturity; and to the resourcing and enabling of local, national and worldwide mission.

We are **Compelled to Serve** – which includes everyone who considers Dumfries Baptist Church to be their spiritual home. This service will be costly, involving time, money and effort as we seek to support and respect one another's needs, whilst reaching out with the same practical love to those living and working in the geographical areas in which God has placed us, corporately and individually.

Members commitment to our purpose

Our purpose is grounded in the Bible. We follow five purposes based upon Acts 2:42-47:

Maturity – “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching”

Membership – “They devoted themselves...to the fellowship”

Magnification – “They devoted themselves... to the breaking of bread and to prayer...they broke bread...together with glad and sincere hearts. Everyone was filled with awe...then praised God”

Ministry – “They devoted themselves to...giving to anyone as they had need”

Mission – “They devoted themselves to... meeting together in the temple courts every day. They enjoyed the favour of the people and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved”