

Is Membership Important? 7 Reasons to Join Harvest

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

1 Membership says, I belong here, and God says that believers belong together (Hebrews 10:23-25). You sense that God wants you here with the people of Harvest Bible Chapel at this time in your walk with Christ, and you want to make a public

4 Membership says, I accept responsibility for a group of fellow believers in the family of God, and that is God's plan as well (Galatians 6:1-2,10). You want to be part of a caring network of people, sharing one another's joys and sorrows, and helping one another grow through worship, Bible study, and fellowship.

5 Membership says, I am accountable to mature brothers and sisters in Christ for my walk with God, and God warns against spiritual autonomy (Hebrews

declaration that you are committed to God's work through this church.

2 Membership says, I affirm, believe and support the teaching of this church and God says the believers had all things in common including devotion to the Apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42-47). You associate with people of like mind and conviction and embrace the authority of God's Word in your life and the life of the church.

3 Membership says, we share the same ministry goals, and God says that believers are to be committed to one another for the sake of spiritual impact (Ephesians 4:16). You believe that Jesus has a work to do in Barrie, Central Ontario, Canada, and around the world, and you are willing to join with others who have the same vision to see that it gets done.

13:17; Matthew 18:15-20). You want to receive the guidance, equipping, and assistance necessary to remain on target and you do not want to go it alone in standing for Jesus Christ.

6 Membership says, I accept responsibility for how things are done here, and God says that is how it should be (1 Corinthians 12:20-27). Elders, deacons, and other church leaders are called from within and serve the congregation. Every member contributes their unique gifting and passion to build a healthy body.

7 Membership keeps us legal (1 Timothy 3:2; 1 Peter 2:13-17). The Province of Ontario recognizes churches if they have a credible membership and organization. Obedience to these laws, without any compromise of biblical injunctions, affirms that we are responsible citizens with a desire to serve.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of Harvest Bible Chapel. We are a community of people from all walks of life. We love each other, pray for one another, and respect each other's differences. More than anything else, we are unified in our worship of and service to the Lord Jesus Christ. This brochure is designed to give you a pathway to follow in considering membership at Harvest. May God bless you as you seek his will.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Faithful and Involved

For complete information about worship times and locations, please contact the church office.



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EMAIL: info@harvestbarrie.ca
www.harvestbarrie.ca

OFFICE: 258 Bayfield Street
Barrie, ON L4M 3B7
705-739-8613

WORSHIP: Timothy Christian School
750 Essa Road, Barrie, ON
9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

10-2010



Joining is Easy!

There are six basic requirements that must be fulfilled in order to join the church.

- 1 Become a follower of Jesus Christ, accepting him as Lord and Saviour;
- 2 Be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit following conversion;
- 3 Agree to adhere to the statement of faith, four pillars and constitution of the church;
- 4 Participate in the Peak Performance class;
- 5 Complete the application forms and interview process; and
- 6 Your name will be published in the bulletin for three weeks to allow anyone to resolve any personal issues with you that might hinder our fellowship together.

So, anyone who is a Christ-follower, has been baptized by immersion, holds to the same beliefs, and wants to serve the Lord according to our goals and purposes as outlined in the Peak Performance class, is encouraged to make application and join with us.

Frequently Asked Questions

1 WHAT IS THE STATEMENT OF FAITH?

This is the list of those essential Bible beliefs which all of our members support. It is listed in detail in the Peak Performance notes and in our constitution. To give a general summary, we are an evangelical church supporting these beliefs: • The Bible is the inspired revelation of God; • God is a Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; • Jesus Christ is the virgin born, sinless Son of God, who died for our sins, was resurrected, and is coming again; • All people are sinners who can be saved through faith in Jesus' payment for sin on the cross.

2 CAN I TRANSFER MY MEMBERSHIP FROM ANOTHER CHURCH?

We are active participants in the Barrie Christian Council and belong to the Harvest Bible Fellowship. As much as possible, we work together with other churches to assist those who may wish to become a member of Harvest. Membership at Harvest is based on your testimony of salvation and baptism. While we don't "transfer" memberships, we ask for letters of commendation from a previous church if applicable and/or appropriate.

3 IS MY BAPTISM ACCEPTED BY HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL?

Anyone who has been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, subsequent to a personal decision to become a follower of Jesus Christ and as an act of obedience under the authority of an evangelical church, has fulfilled the biblical requirements.

4 WOULD YOU EXPLAIN STEP BY STEP WHAT I NEED TO DO TO BECOME A MEMBER?

- (a) Sign up for the next Peak Performance class by contacting the church office;
- (b) Complete the membership application forms you will receive at the Peak Performance class.
- (c) Be interviewed to answer any questions you might have and for us to review your application and get to know you better.
- (d) Following this interview you will be presented to the congregation by posting your name in the bulletin for three weeks. This allows the congregation an opportunity to contact the leadership should they have any questions about your membership.
- (e) After successfully completing the application process, you will receive a letter welcoming you into the membership of Harvest and you will be presented to the congregation during a Sunday morning worship service.

5 WHAT EXACTLY IS THE PEAK PERFORMANCE CLASS?

In this class you will examine various aspects of knowing and understanding what being a Christ-follower and belonging to Harvest is about.

6 HOW IS HARVEST GOVERNED?

Harvest is an elder-governed church. Men who fit the qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 may be asked to serve as elders. The elders give oversight to the entire ministry with particular focus on doctrine, direction and discipline. The senior pastor functions as the "first among equals" with all elders sharing the weight of leadership. Deacons are appointed by the elders to oversee finances, facilities and the H.O.P.E. Fund (benevolence ministry), and are directly accountable to the eldership.

7 HOW DO YOU CHOOSE PEOPLE TO SERVE AT THE CHURCH?

We look for the right people to be serving in the right places for the right reasons. We know that when this happens, the church functions best and the servant has a high level of fruitfulness and fulfillment. Everyone who chooses to serve in an official capacity must be on the path to become a mature follower of Jesus Christ. Since God has made us all unique, each person is to find a ministry specially designed for him/her based on individual spiritual gifts and abilities, passion for ministry, and having a temperament that suits the role. Our spiritual gifts discipleship class helps people discover that there is a place of service for everyone—one that is uniquely suited to them. We believe that all members are ministers or servants of Jesus Christ who are specially equipped to help accomplish the vision. Each person is important! Please carefully and prayerfully consider becoming one of our faithful and involved members—a person who can be part of God's community here at Harvest. Be sure to contact us if you have further questions or need additional material.

8 WHAT DENOMINATION IS HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL?

Harvest is a non-denominational church. We describe ourselves as theologically conservative and evangelical. We are affiliated with the Harvest Bible Fellowship, which is made up of approximately 60 churches including some in Ontario. For more information on the location of these churches or about HBF, go to www.harvestbiblefellowship.ca.

Becoming part of the family at Harvest ...

Why Join?

Belonging, fulfilment, relationship, encouragement... these are just some of the words that come to mind when we think of good reasons to join a church like Harvest. By joining, you will also know that you are following the pattern laid out in the Bible for followers of Jesus Christ. In *Acts 2:40-41* we read this about the Apostle Peter, "*With many other words...; he solemnly testified... and... those who had received his word were baptized, and that day there were added about three thousand souls*". After hearing Peter's message that day they joined the church.