

Membership at Smythe Street Cathedral Joining the Team



Membership Information Packet

What you need to know about becoming a member
of Smythe Street Cathedral



We're glad that you're considering becoming a member of Smythe Street Cathedral. Membership is a commitment we make to each other, as believers in Jesus, to work together as a team in support of the vision and call God has given us as a local church.

The information inside of this packet will briefly introduce you to our beliefs, our church and the responsibilities we hold to as members.

This is what you need to do to apply for membership:

1. Read the information in this packet.
2. Submit the form "**Registration for Membership Orientation**" to the church office.
3. Attend a Membership Orientation session. If you have submitted a registration form, we will inform you when a session is upcoming. The orientation is an opportunity to learn more about membership, our church, and our vision. There is also an opportunity to address your questions.
4. At the Membership Orientation there is an opportunity to confirm your desire to become a member.

At this point your application is submitted to the church leadership for final approval.

I hope that you decide to join us as we aim to follow Jesus together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verner Drost'.

Pastor Verner Drost

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Membership: What is it?

One of the ways the Bible illustrates membership is found in 1 Corinthians 12. The image is that of a body with different parts. The different parts work together and belong to each other. Membership is about those two things.

We work together

You will hear us use the word ‘team’ a lot around here. God has given us a mission to spread his message and teach his ways to the world around us. This is a task that we share together. Membership is about committing to work together with a unified purpose and vision.

We belong to each other

Being a member is not just about the work and call we share, it is about relationships. The Bible often refers to Christians as ‘brothers and sisters.’ Membership is a commitment we make to each other that we will love, care and watch out for each other, as a healthy family should.

We are a small part of the bigger picture

We know that every Christian belongs to God’s extended family across the world. While we are committed to that extended family, we also believe it is important to be committed to a local church family. A place where we can work together, share life together and celebrate God’s goodness together.

What is required of members at Smythe Street Cathedral?

As a church, there are some basic requirements that we ask of all those who want to join us as members:

a) To qualify as a member you must be a baptized believer in Jesus Christ.

We are a Christian church. We welcome all people into our doors to worship with us; however, we ask those who commit to be a part of our church membership be committed followers of Jesus Christ, having trusted him as Saviour and Lord. *(If you would like to become a Christian or have questions, please contact one of the Pastors who would be glad to meet with you.)*

One of the first things believers in Jesus are to do is be baptized. Jesus commanded his disciples to baptize those who would follow him *(See Matthew 28:19)*. This is a necessary step that a believer is to take after putting their trust in Jesus.

b) To qualify as a member you must support our Statement of Faith, Core Values, Vision, and Mission Statement.

Our Statement of Faith outlines the essential beliefs that we hold to as a church. Our Core Values, Vision and Mission Statement talk about the direction we are moving in as a church. We’ve included the Statement of Faith, Core Values and Mission Statement here so you can look them over. A brief overview of our Vision will be covered in the Membership Orientation session we have with you.



Statement of Faith of Smythe Street Cathedral:

- We believe that there is only one God who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, begotten, not created, truly God and truly man; that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, suffered and died on the cross for the sins of the world, on the third day He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- We believe that the Bible, with its universally accepted 66 books as they were originally written, is the inspired Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and Christian conduct.
- We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and not by works or human merits.
- We believe in Water Baptism by immersion, after salvation, as a necessary step of obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We believe that believers should seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the New Testament are to be used today.
- We believe that every believer should partake of Communion (the Lord's Supper) on a regular basis.
- We believe that there is only one Holy Christian Church of which all true believers are a part and that every individual believer should belong to a local church body.
- We believe that marriage is a sacred covenant ordained by God as a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman.
- We believe that sexual relationships were designed and ordained by God to be celebrated and enjoyed exclusively within the marriage covenant.
- We believe that the abiding presence of Christ teaches and empowers every believer to overcome and live separate from sin.
- We believe that in Christ we have eternal life and that there will be a future resurrection.
- We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ.
- We also hold to the universally accepted Creed known as "The Apostles Creed".

The Core Values of Smythe Street Cathedral:

- At Smythe Street Cathedral we value the Roots of Our Faith
We are part of a story that is bigger than ourselves. Our Christian faith and Scripture are not our own invention or something we can change at our will. They have been passed down to us through the ages by faithful men and women of God. Today, we are called to be faithful witnesses to what God has revealed as true to centuries of believers who have gone before us.
- At Smythe Street Cathedral we value the Experience of the Holy Spirit
We actively invite God's leading and presence in our lives, in obedience to the Scriptures' teaching to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is by the power of Holy Spirit that we can achieve our godly purpose, and make lasting changes in our lives and everyday circumstances.



- At Smythe Street Cathedral we value Worship with Excellence
Excellence honours God and inspires people, so we aim to give one hundred percent to everything we do, in our lives, workplace, relationships, morality, and service. Honouring God with every aspect of our lives is what the Bible means by ‘worship.’
- At Smythe Street Cathedral we value All People
“Everybody matters.” God creates and values all people. As a church we remember God loves everyone regardless of gender, race, age, or social status. We aim to show God’s love and message to everyone.
- At Smythe Street Cathedral we value Effective Communication of the Message
The message of the Gospel and Christ’s reign is the most important news in the world; sharing and living that message is a great honour and responsibility. Without compromising any part of the message, we spread the word to everyone possible.
We use whatever method, technology, teaching style, music, or art form that effectively communicates to today’s world.
- At Smythe Street Cathedral we value Love in Action
God calls us to show his generous love to the hurting, the poor, the needy, and those who are not following Him. We believe this is most effectively done when we offer tangible acts of compassion and service, not only words.
- At Smythe Street Cathedral we value Doing Church as Team
God has given every believer spiritual gifts, abilities, and passions for accomplishing His work in the world. We intentionally look for where people’s spiritual gifts and personal style enable them to contribute to our team, regardless of gender, race, culture, or social status. We are accountable to God not only to use our gifts, but also to exercise them in cooperation with other believers in an attitude of service.
- At Smythe Street Cathedral we value Unity in Diversity
Jesus’ prayer for the Church was that it would be united. While we have a diversity of preferences in worship style, theological traditions, and passions, we are committed to safeguarding unity in our core beliefs, the centrality of Scripture, and cooperating to fulfill our purpose as a church. For this reason, we see our place in Fredericton as a non-denominational church cooperating with other Christian churches in our city.

Mission Statement

The purpose of Smythe Street Cathedral is to make more disciples who minister for Jesus Christ.

c) **To Qualify as a member you need to attend a Membership Orientation**

The membership orientation is an opportunity to learn more about our church, how our leadership works, the role of our by-laws, and ask questions.



d) To qualify as a member, you commit to our membership responsibilities

There are six commitments that we ask of each other as members at Smythe Street Cathedral (SSC).

1. We agree to support and promote the unity of SSC.
2. We agree to support SSC with regular attendance.
3. We agree to support SSC with consistent financial contributions.
4. We will strive to live a godly Christian life.
5. We will strive to attend members meetings (These are normally once a year).
6. We will be accountable to, and cooperate with church leadership within their roles, in particular the Pastors, Elders and Board of Trustees.

These responsibilities are discussed in more detail at the Membership Orientation.

What does membership do for you?

Membership is about BELONGING

As a member you belong to a group of followers of Christ that have made the same mutual commitments to you as a member. We are walking out our faith together.

Membership is about ACCOUNTABILITY

We look out for each other, encourage each other and care for each other.

Membership is about having a SPIRITUAL COVERING

Having a group of spiritual pastors and elders that watch for your spiritual health.

Membership is about having a UNITED VISION

Together we are stronger and can go farther.

Membership is about OWNERSHIP

You now have a say in the future of our local church. It's now your church also!

Membership is about FAMILY

We are officially your local church family.

What's Next?

If you would like to become a member, or want to learn more about membership, you should register for our next Membership Orientation. Simply complete the enclosed **Membership Orientation Registration Form**, and drop it at the church office. We will be sure to let you know when our next Membership Orientation happens, so you can be a part.

Questions?

If you have questions about membership, anything you've read in this packet, or other concerns, please feel free to contact the church office and request a meeting with one of the pastors. We would be glad to meet with you.

You can call us at (506)458-8206

Or email us at office@smythestreetcathedral.com

