

What about

MEMBERSHIP



Membership in a church is not like membership in a social club or other organisations. For many organisation members the organisation exists to serve them. The Church is a completely different community - membership means ministry and service, going from being a consumer to becoming a provider of God's love and care to others.



Membership of Life Church Petersfield

We are always pleased to see new faces at our Sunday morning meetings and other activities we engage in. Some will cross our path briefly and others, over time, may stay to become part of the Life Church family.

Jesus said that He would build the church, and so, as leaders and trustees we are content to enjoy the natural ebb and flow, and happy to welcome both occasional and regular visitors. We are keen to play our part, but happy to watch God at work, gently drawing people into His body - the church.

We are, of course, delighted when we see relationships growing, people wanting to keep in touch, asking for their names to be included in the church 'Directory' and finally coming to a place where they feel that they *'belong'* and this is *'their'* church family'.

Life Church Petersfield is also a charity so in accordance with legal requirements, we have an official membership list which is reviewed annually in advance of the AGM. Since names included in the Directory are not necessarily names of members, here is some information you may find useful:

In general terms a member of Life Church is:

**Someone who is a Christian and wants to follow Jesus.
Someone who feels 'placed' and therefore isn't expecting to move on as soon as something isn't quite their 'cup of tea'.**

Someone for whom Life Church is 'home'... they want to be part of the family and expect to journey together when the path is rough as well as smooth.

Someone who knows that to be involved and make a difference it is necessary to be 'present' and get involved!

Someone who expects to give as well as to receive ... and therefore expects to input some of their time, energy and money to support the church family and its activities.

In terms of our status as a charity there is additional information about membership in our constitution* which states:

Membership is open to any individual interested in promoting the Objects* who:

4.1.1 agrees with and adheres to, in belief and lifestyle, the Core Values* of the Church.

4.1.2 applies to the Church in the form required by the Trustees; and

4.1.3 is approved by the Core Leaders and confirmed by the Trustees.

As you see, there is an implication that to be a member you will have said you want to be one - and had a conversation about it with church leaders.

We also like to welcome people into membership on a Sunday morning once the decision has been made and confirmed - although it is true to say that things don't always happen quite as we intend!

If you feel that God has placed you in Life Church and you are at the point where you would like to talk about membership, please speak to Gerry Arnold or John Callaghan. We would be delighted to talk to you.

NB: * a copy of our constitution and information about the Charitable Objectives and Core Values can be found on our Website at:

www.lifechurchpetersfield.org.uk/about-us

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What next?

We would love to discuss membership with you and be able to welcome you into the church family. The first step is to speak with John Callaghan or Gerry Arnold who will make some time to meet up with you informally. They will arrange for you to meet with the Leadership Team to have a membership interview with you. They will want to hear about how you became a Christian and your subsequent spiritual journey - and also to discuss what being a member means. At convenient time we will welcome you into membership at our Sunday gathering.



www.lifechurchpetersfield.org.uk
admin@lifechurchpetersfield.org.uk
01730 2131400

Registered Charity No. 1015031