

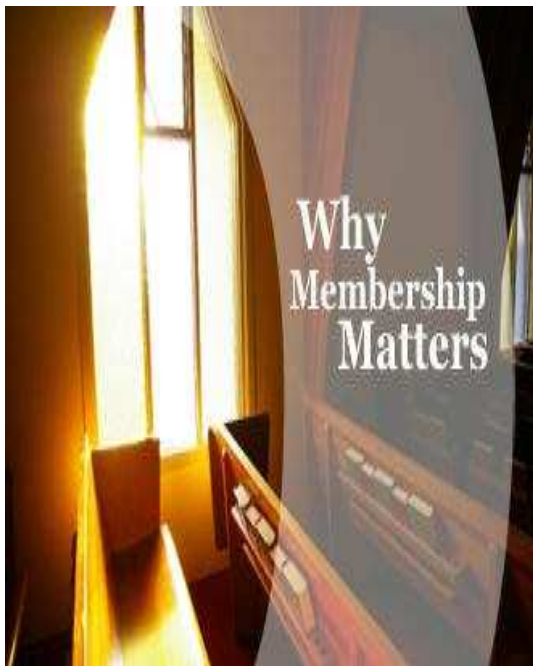


CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We at Faith Works International seek to glorify God by loving each other, and leading people into a life transforming encounter with the kingdom of God.

The Church, under God, must be united for this purpose and so, in an effort to grow our church community and commitment to one another, we are encouraging all attendees of FWI to become official Church family members.

'Although there is no scriptural mandate for church membership, there is certainly nothing to prohibit it.'



- Church membership is a way of officially identifying oneself with a local body of believers.
- Church membership is a statement that a Christian is in agreement with their local church and is willing to be identified as a representative of it.
- Church membership is also valuable for organisational purposes and a good way of determining who is supportive of the vision and mission of the church. Only the '**Family Membership**' members are approached by the Executive Board to give advisory input into the decisions of the church, when necessary. The Leadership for our church is selected from our 'Family Membership' base. No one can hold a leadership position in the church unless they are a part of the 'Family Membership' base.
- Church membership is not required of Christians. It is simply a way of saying, "I am a Christian and I believe Faith Works International is a church I am willing to pray for, serve in and financially support."

SIX SUPPORTIVE POINTS

Firstly, why become a member of FWI.

Membership in the church provides a unified witness to newcomers and the surrounding community by holding each other accountable to a shared statement of faith, encouraging unity in doctrine, and encouraging unity in lifestyle.

Secondly, to become a member of FWI.

Church membership is a long-term commitment to be a provider – coming to serve others, not to be served. Hopefully, this means we get served by others as well!

Thirdly, to become a member of FWI.

If regular FWI attendees do not eventually make themselves known to the Pastoral team as family members of the church, then the Pastors cannot take responsibility for them as part of their particular flock. Pastors need to know for which sheep God will hold them accountable so that they can tend to them most responsibly and effectively (Hebrews 13:17). Regular attendees benefit from the commitment of other people who have become family members and who give, serve and pray regularly.

Fourthly, to become a member of FWI for the sake of God's name.

The building up of the church is ultimately GOD'S work. *The LORD added to their number daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42, 47). Saul, Saul, why do you persecute ME (Acts 9:4).* Jesus so closely identified Himself with His Church that He said Saul was persecuting *Him* when he was persecuting the church.

If Jesus identified Himself closely with the church, we should too. By being committed together in a church, we are giving testimony and praise to God through our lives as we live and love one another together. We could serve people socially, but will they be committed to pray, give, serve, love, and attend? These are the marks of a faithful Christian, and these are the characteristics and actions that give God glory in the church.

Hebrews 10:24-25, AMP

let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching.

Fifthly, to become a member of a Church for God's cause.

God wants His glory displayed, and His gospel spread to all the nations. We can take God's glory and gospel to the nations better if we band together than if we do it alone. We seize the privilege of evangelism best if we work together as one diverse unit.

Sixthly, to become a member of a Church, you are not ashamed to identify with Christ and His Church and openly demonstrate the reality of the Body of Christ.

Although membership of the universal church is automatic upon becoming a believer, membership in the local church is based upon our individual choice.

The Pastors of FWI would love to talk with anyone concerning membership – your questions and your possible struggles with the concept of family membership etc. We will be encouraging regular attendees to become family members, but please do not feel that we want to pressure you into becoming one. Instead, please see this as part of our efforts to serve you better, and to help you grow in your love and service for God and His people. By becoming a family member, you are giving the Pastors permission to take care of you and to speak into your life.

Hopefully, the above information has helped you in your decision making. Please prayerfully consider joining us as a Faith Works International family member, and sharing with us in the incomparable riches of together being loved by God, worshipping God in return, and serving His people.

THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A MEMBER AT FAITH WORKS INTERNATIONAL

1. Express your interest to a ministry leader, pastor or just complete this form.
2. Attend a membership class/course where you may have a copy of the FWI constitution if you wish, receive information on the FWI Ministry Framework, and FWI Membership Covenant. The course leader will help you understand our doctrinal beliefs, church direction, and the responsibilities of membership of FWI.
3. Fill in an application form if you wish to become a family member.
4. An interview will be conducted by a pastor of the church.
5. The names of the applicants will be submitted to the Management Committee for approval.
6. New members will be received into membership and presented with a Church 'Family Membership Certificate' at a church service as soon as possible.

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Saviour and been baptised, I am in agreement with the church constitution, the tenets of Faith, strategy, and structure; I now feel led to unite with Faith Works International. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

I will protect the unity of my church:

- ... By acting in love toward other members
- ... By refusing to gossip
- ... By following the leaders

I will share the responsibility of my church:

- ... By praying for its growth
- ... By inviting the unchurched to attend
- ... By warmly welcoming those who visit

I will serve the ministry of my church:

- ... By discovering my gifts and talents
- ... By being equipped to serve by my pastor/s
- ... By developing a servant's heart

I will support the testimony of my church:

- ... By attending faithfully
- ... By living a godly life according to scripture
- ... By giving regularly
- ... By joining a small group

Application for Membership

I _____ wish to apply for membership with FAITH WORKS INTERNATIONAL. I acknowledge this requires my acceptance of the Objects and Statement of Faith and Practices of the Church as stated in the Constitution. I will strive to attend and support Church activities. I recognise that acceptance of my application rests with the Management Committee.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please fill out your details below:

Full Name:		Gender:	M / F
Address:			
Mobile:		Phone:	
Email:			
City & Country of Birth:		Date of Birth:	

Occupation:		Marital Status:	
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Place and Year of Salvation:	
Place and Year of water Baptism:	
Do you speak in tongues?	

Period of attendance FWI:	
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In what area would you like to serve?	
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Other members of your family!

Name:		Date of Birth:	
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Name:		Date of Birth:	
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Name:		Date of Birth:	
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Name:		Date of Birth:	
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Name:		Date of Birth:	
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Name:		Date of Birth:	
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Can the church help you in any way?

Any other comments?

N.B.: All applicants will be interviewed by a Pastor and shown a copy of the Church Constitution before your application is considered by the Management Committee. Please return this form to a Pastor or to the Secretary of the Congregation.