



MEMBERSHIP

at Citywide

OUR HISTORY

Eastern Shore Baptist Church came into being through the collapse of the Tasman Bridge on 5 January 1975. The bridge collapse separated the people of Hobart into its Western and Eastern shores. The Eastern shore members of Hobart Baptist Church began to meet for Sunday worship at Rosny College. When the bridge was re-opened in 1977, the Eastern shore congregation at Rosny College chose to stay and became Eastern Shore Baptist Church. This church was formally constituted in December 1977 with a foundation membership of 50. In 1993 Eastern Shore Baptist Church bought the Mornington ten-pin bowl, and became known as **CityGate Baptist**.

Lenah Valley Baptist Church commenced as a Sunday School on 1 August 1948. On 24 February 1952 evening services began. The Home Mission Department of the Baptist Union of Tasmania recognised the Lenah Valley Baptist Fellowship on 4 November 1953. The first stage of the church building was opened on 26 November 1960. The constitution of the Church with a foundation membership of 21 was formalised on 26 February 1961.

Citywide Baptist Church (Citywide) was formed on 6 April 2008 when CityGate Baptist Church at Mornington on the Eastern shore and the Lenah Valley Baptist Church on the Western shore amalgamated, becoming one church in two locations. In February 2018, the **Hobart Nepali Church** became Citywide's third congregation meeting also at the Lenah Valley site. We also now have a church plant in the rural area of **Levendale**

OUR CHURCH

Citywide is a unique Church serving the community through multi-campuses and Community Centres. It is a vibrant Church that is passionate about following Jesus into the adventure of whole life and authentic community. We aspire to be a church where we reflect the life-changing message of Christ in all that we do and overflow with God's love into our communities.

Citywide is a welcoming, friendly and caring church where people with little or no church background can feel comfortable and welcomed. It is a place where ministry opportunities abound.

We invite you to become a part of Citywide's journey.

Matt Garvin
Senior Pastor



WE FOLLOW JESUS
INTO THE ADVENTURE
OF WHOLE LIFE AND
AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

LEADERSHIP

The Leadership Structure is team-based, operating inter-relatedly across the teams and involving a wide range of people at all levels of service and ministry. Our teams operate inter-dependently, reflecting a network of inter-relationship and a heart to serve one another towards the vision and mission of the church.

The **Leadership** (Pastors and Elders) are responsible for the spiritual direction and overall strategic direction and pastoral matters of the church.

The **Administration Team** oversee the administrative operations and responsibilities of the church including office operations, financial accountability and management, property, venue hire, communications and safe church compliance.

The **Ministry Teams** take on responsibility for different ministry areas of the church, operating in teams and working towards the mission and goals of the church

Within the Baptist Church, it is the **Congregation** who have ultimate authority in matters pertaining to the church. The congregation elects its Leadership and Management teams, entrusting them with responsibilities to perform their different roles on behalf of the church. In this context, the Leadership acts on behalf of the congregation and receives the Church's endorsement to hold the highest responsibilities in leadership of the church.

WE ARE A BAPTIST CHURCH

As with all denominations, Baptists have their own principles which came into being in the 17th Century and which we still follow today.

Baptist Principles

- The Lordship of Christ
- The Authority of Scripture
- Believers' Baptism
- Regenerate Church Membership
- Liberty of Conscience
- Separation of Church and State
- Autonomy of the Local Church
- Congregational Government
- Interdependence

Across Tasmania approximately 2,000 people make up our movement. Across the globe there are well over 100 million people who enjoy belonging to their local Baptist congregation. Citywide Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Tasmania, which is part of the national Australian Baptist Ministries.

Together, we're striving to become the kind of Church described in the Bible, where there's relevant teaching, heart-felt worship, honest relationships, constant prayer, heart for the lost and compassionate care for those in need.

WHY MEMBERSHIP?

What's the point, does it really matter, why bother with Church membership? Why not just come and participate? Do I really need official membership? These are frequent questions people ask and in our modern society many people argue that membership is outdated and too formal.

Most of us would agree that we shouldn't live our 'Christianity' alone, that we need Christian community and fellowship. At Citywide we recognise the need, the value, and the importance of a shared faith life and formal church membership enhances this experience.

Here are just a few reasons why membership matters.

- **In becoming a member you make visible your commitment to Christ and his people**

Membership is a statement before God and others that you are part of this local body of believers. You are saying, 'I'm committed to a people'. I have heard it put like this, 'The difference between attenders and members can be summed up in one word: commitment'. You are making your commitment to God and his church at Citywide visible by becoming a member.

- **The Biblical reason**

Paul uses the analogy of the human body and its different 'members' (nose, ear, toes, etc.) in 1 Corinthians 12 to describe the local Church. The 'members' are committed and a part of a local organism. Most of the Apostle Paul's letters were written to a local body of believers. We also see a

similar thing in the book of Revelation where Jesus spoke of individual congregations.

- **Be involved in the decision-making process and direction of the Church**

One of the ways we can hear the voice of God is through the people of God. Members play a role in the decision-making process and setting the direction of Citywide.

- **Committing to something bigger than self**

Membership is saying that you are committed to the mission of Citywide which in turn creates community. When we commit ourselves to an external goal, beyond ourselves and in service of others we find that we ourselves bond together, by that common interest.

- **It defines who can be counted on**

The primary reason to become a member is to identify with characteristics of Biblical maturity and commitment to the Mission and future of Citywide Baptist Church. Active members are our vision owners, they are partners, and they are stakeholders. They are people who play an active part in what we believe God has called us to do here at Citywide.

- **Making a commitment makes a powerful statement in a low-commitment culture**

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything, be it a job, a marriage, or a football team. This attitude has produced a generation of 'Church hoppers'. Membership goes against the flow of Australia's consumer religion. It is an unselfish decision.

THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A MEMBER

1. Approach or contact one of the Pastors, Elders or Administrator and let them know you'd like information about membership.
2. You will be given a copy of a *Membership Booklet* which outlines the basic premise of what it means to be a Member at Citywide Baptist Church.
Please let us know if you have further questions or would like more clarification.
3. The leadership will arrange for two Members to visit with you and interview you for membership. This is also an opportunity to discuss things further and to ask questions.
4. Following your interview a report recommending you for membership will be given to the Eldership who will endorse your formal membership and on a subsequent Sunday announce it to the congregation.

REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Baptism

We believe in the sacrament of baptism by immersion for those who have personal faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Baptism is a symbol of the believer's union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. It is an act of allegiance to Christ as Lord of our lives and a sign of commitment to His Church.

In special circumstances, the Eldership may accept a person as a member who was baptised as an infant and afterwards confirmed as a believer.

See Mat 3; 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; 8:26-39; Romans 6:3,4

Members' Responsibilities

Members of Citywide Baptist Church are encouraged to support the life and ministry of the Church. A Citywide Baptist Church Member:

- Understands that their relationship and walk with Christ is central to all of life and therefore maintains their own spiritual life through such things as prayer and study of the Word of God.
- Submits to Jesus in every aspect of life.
- Is committed to give verbal witness to their faith, seeking to share their faith with non-Christians.
- Engages in ministry in the life of Citywide.

- Is committed to meeting with the wider Citywide Church family in our worship services each Sunday.
- Belongs to a small group.
- Is actively committed to the stewardship of their whole life; their time, gifts and money (in the Old Testament a tenth was the rule and remains a good guide for us today).
- Is actively committed and submitted to the Vision, Mission, and Values as prayerfully shaped by the leadership of Citywide Baptist Church.
- Is involved in the decision-making process of the Church, especially through attendance at Members' Meetings.

CITYWIDE MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour and been baptised, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with fellow believers within the Citywide Baptist Church family.

I am willing to commit myself to doing all I can to support the growth and development of Citywide. I have read and understood the principles of a Baptist church and Citywide's Leadership structure and am ready to submit to this family.

I commit myself to God and to the other members at Citywide to do the following:

- **I will Protect the Unity of my Church**

- By acting in love towards other members
- By refusing to gossip or speak in a way that puts others down
- By being committed to forgiveness and reconciliation
- By respecting and encouraging the Church leadership

- **I will Support the Life of my Church**

- By praying regularly for the congregation, our leadership and ministries
- By seeking to live as a witness for Jesus in my local community, building relationships with non-Christians and inviting them to events
- By warmly welcoming visitors who attend our services
- By giving faithfully and regularly to the work of our Church.

- **I will serve the Ministry of my Church**
 - By discovering and developing my gifts and talents
 - By being equipped and trained for ministry
 - By developing a servant's heart
 - By encouraging others in their ministry in the Church

- **I will support the Testimony of my Church**
 - By regularly attending services and my life/ministry group
 - By seeking to grow in Christ-likeness and live a Godly life
 - By always speaking well of my Church and its people
 - By respecting the policies and practices of Citywide

***I affirm my personal commitment to Membership at
Citywide Baptist Church***

Signed: _____ ***Date:*** _____