

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Creekside
C H U R C H . C A

660 Conservation Drive
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 3Z4
(519) 725-0265
www.creeksidechurch.ca

Name _____

Phone _____

Date _____

We are delighted that you have expressed an interest in membership at Creekside Church. This booklet is designed to assist you with this step by letting you know a little bit more about us and helping us get to know a little bit more about you. And hopefully, as a result, you will become a member of Creekside Church.

Please work through this booklet and complete as much information as you are able. Please record any questions you may have and we will do our best to answer them.

The Leadership Team

WHAT IS A CREEKSIDE CHURCH MEMBER?

A Creekside Member is a follower of Jesus Christ who agrees with and is committed to Creekside Church. Members serve the church and desire the leaders of the church, along with other church members, to help them grow in their walk with Jesus and others.

Members. . .

- participate in communion as often and regularly as possible. Communion is open to all believers, whether or not a Member.
- participate in the programs and activities of the Church.
- serve in key leadership positions open only to Members as the opportunity arises and as appointed in accordance with the Church Constitution.
- use their spiritual gifts in the life of the body of the Church.
- financially support the ministries of the Church, according to ability and resources as God provides.
- protect the unity of the Church by honouring Church leadership and following a biblical model of conflict resolution as expressed in Matthew 18:15-17.
- attend and participate in Members Meetings.
- vote in person at all members meetings including Annual Meetings, Special Meetings and Information Meetings on but not limited to:
 - Strategic plans in summary form;
 - Church Budget in summary form;
 - Election of Elders of the Church;
 - Major initiatives of the Church, including but not limited to purchase, sale or lease of property, building programs, and the formation of a daughter church.

THE STEPS TO BECOMING A MEMBER

Step One: Participate in the Explore Creekside class. Explore Creekside is a prerequisite to membership.

Step Two: Complete the Membership Application and Spiritual Story and return them to the church office or email to membership@creeksidechurch.ca.

Step Three: Someone will contact you to interact with you about Creekside and membership and answer any questions you may have.

Step Four: The interviewer will submit your application, a digital photograph of you and their recommendation relative to membership to the Elders.

Step Five: The Elders will review your application and approve you for membership.

Step Six: You are a member! You will be welcomed officially at an official Church Business Meeting.

Step Seven: You are off on the great adventure of fulfilling your responsibilities as a member!

Please answer as many parts of this form as you are able. Please print.

Date: _____

MY PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Prefer To Be Called: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS (if different from above)

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Male Female Marital Status: Married Single Other

Birthdate: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

EMPLOYMENT / SCHOOL

Are you employed outside the home: _____

Name of Company: _____

Company Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code _____

Phone: _____ Can you be contacted at work? _____

Position: _____

Responsibilities: _____

Are you a student? _____

School Name: _____

Program _____ Year / Term _____

Year of Graduation _____ Co-Op Regular Program

IF MARRIED

Spouse's Name: _____

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN

Children's Names	Sex	Birth Date
_____	M F	_____
_____	M F	_____
_____	M F	_____
_____	M F	_____
_____	M F	_____

MY SPIRITUAL STORY

Please write out the story of how you became a follower of Jesus.

WHY?

There are three reasons we ask for this.

1. It communicates that you know the essential elements of the gospel
2. It can help you personally affirm and celebrate who you are in Christ.
3. It provides you with a simple, personal tool for sharing the good news of Jesus with others.

HOW DO I WRITE IT?

Length: Your story should be no more than one typed page. If you would like assistance in putting it in written form, please contact the church. We would be happy to help in any way we can.

Target Audience: You are writing this to someone who is not a Christian and does not know how to become a Christian. You are writing this to share with them why and how to become a follower of Jesus.

Format: Your story should include three phases:

Phase One – My Life Before I Became a Christian.

Provide a brief description of your life before you became a Christian. If you became a Christian at an early age, briefly describe your home/church environment as a young child.

Example: I grew up going to church, but I didn't understand until my teen years what it meant to have a personal relationship with God. I pretty much did my own thing in high school. Sometimes I went to church, but only when my parents forced me. I struggled a lot with my sense of self-worth and purpose in life.

Phase Two – How I Became a Christian.

Describe specifically how you became a follower of Jesus. Describe how you received Jesus as your personal Saviour and God. Why did you decide to follow Jesus? What does it mean to commit to following Jesus? Include repentance and sin and faith. Include the story of your baptism here.

Example: When I was nineteen I had a friend, who told me about Jesus. He told me who he was and what he did for us. At first, I didn't know what to think. But as I wrestled with it, I realized that Jesus was God and he had come to deal with my sin which stood between me and God. Jesus took the consequences of my sin, death and died for me in my place on the cross. I turned in faith and reached out and trusted him as my sin forgiver and life leader. While I didn't completely understand it all I knew enough to know that this was what I needed to do.

Phase Three – My Life Since Becoming a Christian

Describe what God has been doing in your life since becoming a Christian. How has God helped you grow? Try to tie this in with any struggles you mentioned in Phase One of the testimony.

Example: Since becoming a Christian, God has really helped me out with my own sense of self-worth. I understand now that I am his child, that he loves me regardless of my imperfections, and that he gives me purpose in life. God has been teaching me what a blessing it is to love other people in practical ways. I thank God for continually teaching me and making me more like his Son, Jesus.

(Please include a digital photo of you with your Spiritual Life Story)

MY CHURCH HISTORY

When did you begin regularly attending Creekside Church? Month _____ Year _____

Previous church background (location, ministries, etc.) _____

Do you currently hold membership in another church? Yes No

If yes, which one? _____

(If you hold a membership in another church, we ask that you contact that church and ask to have your membership removed. Creekside does not transfer membership from a previous church.)

MY BAPTISM

Have you been baptized since you became a believer? Yes No

If yes, When? _____

Where? _____

By whom? _____

Mode: Immersion Other (describe) _____

MY ABILITIES AND GIFTS

What do you believe are your Spiritual Gifts?

(An online Spiritual Gift Inventory is available at www.creeksidechurch.ca/spiritualgifts)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE BIBLE: We believe that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the unique and final authority for what one believes and how one lives. As originally written, the Scriptures were entirely free from error. Every word and all parts were inspired by God.

GOD: We believe in one God, Creator of all things, who is holy, sovereign and perfect in all He is and in all He does. He eternally exists in three equal persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

- **God the Father:** We believe God the Father gives oversight to the ministries of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. He has laid down a plan for the ages and is working all things together to fulfill that plan.
- **God the Son:** We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is God the Son. We believe in His complete deity and humanity, His virgin conception, His sinless life, His death on the cross for the sins of the world and His bodily resurrection from the dead. He actively intercedes on behalf of the church and is preparing for His personal return to earth.
- **God the Holy Spirit:** We believe that God the Holy Spirit convicts people of sin. He gives spiritual life, baptizes, indwells, seals and sets apart for holy use everyone at the moment they become a child of God. He bestows spiritual gifts upon believers, and empowers them for daily living.

SATAN: We believe Satan is a created spirit being, the originator of sin, who revolted against God and now works in opposition to the people and purposes of God.

PEOPLE: We believe the first couple, Adam and Eve, were divinely created in the image of God.

Originally innocent, pure and in fellowship with God they fell from that position through the sin of disobedience. Their sin has left all people separated from God, condemned to physical and spiritual death and helpless to restore the original state.

SALVATION: We believe every person needs to be restored to life with God. Salvation is a gift from God graciously offered to humanity. It cannot be earned by any human effort. To receive this gift a person must repent, which involves turning from one's own way to God's way, and place their faith in the person and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. By placing one's faith in Jesus Christ a person becomes a child of God and begins a new, eternally secure relationship with God. Salvation will be evidenced by a changed life.

THE CHURCH: We believe that the church is composed of all who have become children of God. The local church is a gathering of believers, organized to do God's will through worship, teaching, fellowship, evangelism and ministries of compassion and conscience. The local church observes two ordinances: **Baptism** is the immersing of believers in water to signify their relationship with and commitment to Christ; **Communion** is the partaking of bread and wine by believers as a memorial of the sacrifice of Christ. The leaders of the church are **Elders**, who are responsible to give oversight to the church.

THE FUTURE: We believe in the visible and bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth. Those who are children of God will receive a resurrected body and live in the full enjoyment of God's presence forever. Those who are outside the family of God will be resurrected to spend eternity in everlasting punishment.

The Bible: 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:19-21 **God:** Psalm 102:25-27, Matthew 28:19; God the Father: 1 Corinthians 8:5-6, Ephesians 1:3-12; God the Son: Isaiah 7:14, John 1:1-14, 1 Timothy 2:5-6; God the Holy Spirit: John 14:16,17, 1 Corinthians 12:3-13 **Satan:** John 8:44, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 **People:** Genesis 1:27, Romans 5:12-19 **Salvation:** John 1:12, 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9 **The Church:** Acts 2:41-47, Ephesians 5:25b-27, 1 Timothy 3:1-13 **The Future:** 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, 2:1-12, Daniel 12:2

THE CONSTITUTION OF CREEKSIDE CHURCH

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be Creekside Church. The effective date of this organization is August 1, 1989.

II. OBJECT

The object of this church is summarized in its Statement of Mission: *Follow Jesus. Love God. Love People.*

The beliefs of the church are set out in its WHAT WE BELIEVE statement. Activities of the church include worship, biblical instruction, the observance of the divinely instituted ordinances, the presentation of a corporate testimony to the power of the Gospel in its community, and the service which the Gospel requires both at home and abroad.

This organization shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or gains to the organization shall be used on promoting its objectives.

III. MEMBERSHIP

1. Status: *Church Membership* is for Christians who are committed to the church.
2. Reception: Applicants may be accepted as Church Members after giving satisfactory evidence of personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, bearing testimony to their salvation through water baptism, completing the Explore Creekside Class, accepting the What We Believe Statement and Constitution of Creekside Church, and signing the Church Covenant.
3. Removal: Members are removed from membership on decease, or upon a recommendation by the elders. Should the elders desire it, or any member request it and the elders deem it necessary, a majority vote of church members will be required for removal of membership. Members will automatically be removed from church membership at the conclusion of a two-week waiting period which follows the announcement by the elders.
4. Discipline: Members failing to observe the basic principles of the Christian faith and conduct shall be approached for the purpose of restoration in accordance with the teachings of Matthew 18:15-20.
5. Voting Privileges: All members in good standing, eighteen years of age and older, may vote in any and all business matters of the church.

IV. OFFICERS

All officers shall be Church Members in good standing.

1. Scriptural Officers
 - a. Elders (staff elders and volunteer elders)
 - i) The calling of an elder shall be made upon a 75% vote of the members present at a duly called business meeting.
 - ii) The dismissal of an elder shall be upon the majority vote of the members present at a duly called business meeting.
 - iii) The duties of an elder are primarily to teach and preach the Word, to give oversight to the church and to guard it from error.
 - iv) Staff Elders shall remain in office indefinitely, subject to review by the Board of Directors.
 - v) Volunteer Elders shall serve a term of three years. There is no restriction on the number of consecutive terms a Volunteer Elder can serve.

- b. Ministry Pastors
 - i) Ministry Pastors are hired by and accountable to the Staff Elders.
 - ii) Ministry Pastors are to assist the elders in matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the church as well as carrying out business matters and administrative duties.

2. Legal Officers

- a. Board of Directors (volunteer elders)
 - i) The Board of Directors will consist of the Volunteer Elders as Directors, and the Staff Elders as ex-officio non-voting members.
 - ii) The duties of Board of Directors are primarily to have ultimate legal responsibility for the Church, including all strategic plans and financial affairs of the Church, including the preparation of annual budgets and financial statements, and maintaining the property and physical facilities of the Church.
 - iii) The Board of Directors shall at their first meeting each year, appoint such officers as they deem necessary (ex. Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary).

V. GOVERNANCE

The government of this church and the administration of its affairs shall be by the church and such officers as it may direct. There shall be an annual business meeting of the church when full reports from all departments of the church shall be given and accepted by the church. Other meetings may be called from time to time by the elders of the church as necessary. Business meetings shall be announced three weeks in advance, including information as to the nature of the business to be dealt with in the meeting.

At any duly called meeting of the members those present shall constitute a quorum.

VI. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended upon a 75% vote at any duly called business meeting.

Amended June 17, 2004

CREEKSIDE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Believing in Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour; having been baptized in obedience to His command as a declaration of my allegiance to Him; and agreeing with Creekside Church's Key Statements, Strategy and Structure . . .

I COMMIT MYSELF TO GOD AND TO THE MEMBERS OF CREEKSIDE CHURCH TO:

1. PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

By loving others

By refusing to gossip

By following the leaders

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up. Ephesians 4:29

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. Hebrews 13:17

2. SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

By praying for its health

By sharing my faith

By warmly welcoming newcomers

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 1 Thessalonians 1:2

"Go and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:19

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7

3. SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

By discovering and using my gifts and abilities to serve others

By participating in member meetings and decisions

By developing a servant's heart

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10

So, Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:11-12

...in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:3-4

4. SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

By attending faithfully

By living a godly life

By giving financially

Let us not give up meeting together . . . but let us encourage one another. Hebrews 10:25

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Philippians 1:27
. . . see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Corinthians 8:7

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Ministry	In which area(s) of ministry have you served, at other churches or at Creekside?	Previously	Presently	Desire to Serve
Ministry Support				
	Administration Human Resources, strategic planning, network administration, administrative support services, internal communications, graphic design, signage, ministry centers, photography, library, facility administration, membership, etc.			
	Campus Operations Set-up, building and property maintenance, carpentry, garden care, and other projects			
	Communications Web site, external advertising, graphic design, marketing			
	Personal Development Assisting people in finding their place to serve			
Life Groups				
	Adult Adult education, Explore Creekside classes, men's ministry, women's ministry, focus groups			
	Life Groups Leading, coaching, hosting			
Children				
	Children (Infants to Grade 6) Sunday programs, mid-week programs, summer programs, teaching, worship, small groups, activities, child care, etc.			
Worship & Arts				
	Worship and Arts Vocal, instrumental, drama, sound, lighting, multi-media, coordination of worship services			
Care & Outreach				
	Community Care Food drives, emergency assistance, Operation Christmas Child, Angel Tree, meals, transportation, food service for funerals, support network, marriage preparation courses			
	Hospitality Welcoming newcomers, guest services, ushering, parking, decorations, food services, Sunday morning "Connections",			
	Outreach Outreach events, discipleship, mentoring, seeker resources, follow-up, ALPHA			
	Missions Supporting and caring for missionaries, reviewing applications for support			
	Pastoral Care and Counselling Spiritual care, counseling and referral			
	Sports Coordination of various sports teams and tournaments for outreach purposes			
Youth & Young Adults				
	Youth (Grades 7 through high school) Mid-week programs, outreach events, social events, service projects, sports			
	Young Adults (young adults, university and college students) Teaching, small groups, outreach events, social events			
Other				

Skills or Talents or Talents (i.e., musical, secretarial,carpentry,etc.) _____

MY COMMITMENT TO MEMBERSHIP

EXPLORE CREEKSIDE

Explore Creekside is a class designed to introduce the beliefs, structures and strategy of Creekside Church. Participation in Explore Creekside is a prerequisite to becoming a Church Member.

I have completed "Explore Creekside". The class was held on...

WHAT WE BELIEVE

(see page 5 for a copy of the What We Believe statement)

I have read the What We Believe statement and am in full agreement with it.

Yes No

THE CHURCH CONSTITUTION

(see page 6 and 7 for a copy of the Church Constitution)

I have read the Church Constitution and understand it.

Yes No

THE POSITIONAL STATEMENTS

(obtain from Elders Assistant at elders@creeksidechurch.ca)

I have read and agree with Creekside's Positional Statements.

Yes No

CREEKSIDE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

(see page 8 for a copy of the Membership Covenant)

I have examined the Church Covenant and I desire before God and the other members of the church to fulfill that covenant.

Signed _____ Date _____

QUESTIONS TO ASK THE INTERVIEWER

Please return your completed Membership Application, Spiritual Story and digital photo to:

Assistant to the Elders
membership@creeksidechurch.ca
519-725-0265 x266

DO NOT COMPLETE THIS PAGE - FOR INTERVIEWER USE ONLY

INTERVIEW:

Date _____

Time _____

Place _____

I do/do not recommend that _____ be accepted to the position of Church Member.

signed _____ interviewer

MINISTRY INTERESTS:

COMMENTS:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date of request _____
Date of contact _____
Date of interview _____ Date of Membership _____