



Huron Chapel Evangelical Missionary Church

Our Mission: *Loving Jesus, Serving Others Together*

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

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What is a Member?

You are called to a specific place, at this time, for a purpose

“Church” = “Ekklesia” (Greek) meaning,, “A calling out of”. It was used by the Greeks for a body of people “gathered” to discuss affairs of the state. When applied to Christians it is a group of believers called out of the world to gather together for the purpose of fulfilling God’s mission to the world.

- The word “Ekklesia” is used 114 times in the Bible.
 - o ~ 24 are in relation to the global church throughout time (e.g. Matthew 16:18, *and I will build My Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it*)
 - o ~ 90 are in relation to a local gathering of believers (e.g. 1 Cor 1:2, Rev 2&3)

The New Testament often uses the picture of a body to describe the church. There is the global Body of Christ, which is organized in local churches, or bodies, of believers. It is God’s design that as Christians we be part of a church, a local body of believers. In the context of a local body of believers, you have different members of the body that fill different functions, yet we are all part of the same body on mission in the community where God has put us (Romans 12, 1 Cor 12). **God is the one who puts people together to be a church for His purposes (1 Cor 12:18)**. Membership starts with discerning, “Is God calling you to this church, at this time?” and if so, then “What is the purpose He has for you?”

The Bible gives several reasons why membership is important:

- 1) To serve one another as part of the Body (Romans 12, Hebrews 3:12-14, 10:24-25)
 - a) This is an important part of being a disciple of Jesus and living out our faith in Him. We are to help one another in being disciples of Jesus. There are [59 “one another” commands](#) in the New Testament. We are to serve one another and use the gifts that God has given us for the building up of the body (Eph 4:15-16).
- 2) To be equipped by godly leaders to “grow up in every way into Christ” (Eph 4:11-16)
 - a) The Bible teaches that the local church is “overseen” by a group of elders (1 Tim 3:1). These elders are called by God to serve the body (Eph 4:11-16, 1 Timothy 3:1-8, 1 Peter 5:1-5). Titus is a letter Paul wrote instructing him to put elders in place in churches.
 - b) As members of a congregation, Hebrews 13:17 says you are to submit to the church leadership (as they submit to Christ) for your benefit.
- 3) To hold each other accountable and display the Gospel of Jesus to the world by our unity and love for one another (John 17:20-21).
 - a) Matthew 18:15-17 is about how we are to resolve conflict with one another. Notice that the final step is to have an unrepentant person removed from the church membership.
 - b) We are also instructed to “confess our sins to one another”. (James 5:16)

Who is Huron Chapel?

- Huron Chapel is part of the larger church family known as the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada (EMCC.ca). Our beliefs are aligned with the [Articles of Faith](#) of the EMCC (see appendices). See “[What We Believe](#)” section below for more detail.
- We are a recognized charitable organization registered with the Government of Canada (which means we are able to issue tax receipts for donations) and adhere to the required laws as such.
- The legal entity of Huron Chapel is [incorporated federally](#) according to our “Articles of Incorporation” (see appendices).
- We adhere to our church’s [Bylaw](#) for the operational affairs of the church (see appendices).

Our Purposes (cf. *Articles of Incorporation*)

- *To preach and advance the teachings of the Christian faith and the religious tenets, doctrines, observations and culture associated with that faith;*
- *To establish, maintain and support a house of worship with services conducted in accordance with the tenets and doctrines of the Christian faith;*
- *To support and maintain missions and missionaries in order to propagate the Christian faith.*

Structure of Huron Chapel

How We Organize Ourselves for Ministry & Mission

(references are to the [Huron Chapel General Operating Bylaw](#) – see appendices)

- Jesus Christ, Our Head
- Meeting of Members (congregation), the Body
 - Annual Meeting (29.1); Election Meeting (29.2); Other meetings (29.3)
- Elders (“Board of Directors” in Articles of Incorporation, i.e. our ‘official board’)
 - 3-10 male members over 21, must meet high qualifications (10.1)
 - Propose policy statements to the congregation for ratification (43)

- Team Leaders
 - Members that fulfill the spiritual qualifications (17.1.b - 1Tim.3:8-15)
 - Examples of Ministry Teams: Children Youth & Family (CYF), Property, Missions, Prayer, Finance, Nominating / Personnel
- Employees
 - Lead Pastor: works in conjunction with the Elders Board in an advisory capacity (not a voting Elder), provides spiritual leadership / oversight, supervisory authority over ministry / administrative staff (21.1)
 - Executive Pastor: works in conjunction with the Elders Board in an advisory capacity (not a voting Elder), provides spiritual leadership / oversight for ministry / administrative Staff. (22.1)
 - Office Administrator (22.1)
 - Custodial Staff (22.1)

What We Believe

- We look to live out our mission statement of “Loving Jesus, Serving Others Together”
 - This is explained in more detail in our “values” (see appendices).
- As already noted, as part of the larger church family known as the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada, our beliefs are aligned with the denomination’s “Articles of Faith”, so in order to be a member of Huron Chapel you must be in agreement with said EMCC Articles of Faith.
- In addition to this, the EMCC also has “[Articles of Practice](#)” (see appendices) for guidance on practices of the church. Huron Chapel is aligned with the EMCC in these Articles of Practice, but we acknowledge that other churches within the greater Body of Christ may have different practices yet we still regard them as brothers and sisters in Christ. As a member of Huron Chapel you acknowledge that you support being part of a church that follows these practices (even if your personal view differs).
- The EMCC has a vision to “Make Disciples Who Make Disciples”. The vision for this is described in the “[Way of Jesus](#)” as well as the positional paper from the EMCC “[Christ at the Center](#)” (see appendices).

How to become a Member at Huron Chapel

(reference - MEMBERSHIP: HC Bylaw 3.1 – 5.2; see “Application for Membership” in appendices)

3 Qualification for Membership

- 3.1 The Members shall be those who have been admitted into Membership and continue as Members in accordance with the Church Constitution.
- 3.2 Any Person shall qualify to be a Member if he or she:
- a) Professes faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour ;
 - b) Has been baptized as a believer, or, for a godly passionate Christian having roots in another tradition where baptismal practice differs, is supportive of the conviction of EMCC and Huron Chapel that the new birth is essential and that the Biblical teaching is believer's baptism by immersion upon profession of faith;
 - c) Has been recommended for Membership by at least one Elder and one other Member;
 - d) Would not be under the discipline of the Church as set out in Section 31.1, if he were a member; and
 - e) Has completed the procedure for admission into Membership set out in Section 4.1 to 4.5.

4 Admission to Membership

- 4.1 Any person eligible for Membership may initiate an Application for Membership by either a verbal or written request to an Elder or an employee of the Church.
- 4.2 A Person transferring from another member church of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada or any other church may apply for membership in the Church but must satisfy the requirements for admission into membership as set out in Section 4.3.
- 4.3 The applicant shall be required to sign a written Application for Membership, a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, a declaration of acceptance of the basic doctrines of the Church as expressed in the Statement of Faith, and a commitment to adhere to and be subject to the authority of the Church as expressed in the Church Constitution and Policies.
- 4.4 The form of application and the procedures for assessing an application shall be as set out in the Rules for Admission to Membership, established in accordance with Section 51.
- 4.5 Once the Board is satisfied that the applicant fulfills all the qualifications for Membership as set out in Section 3.2 herein, and understands and commits to the fundamental tenets of the Christian faith, the Board may in its absolute discretion approve such Person as a Member.
- 4.6 After the Person’s application for Membership is approved by Resolution of the Board, then such Person shall immediately be deemed to have become a Member.

5 Privileges, Rights and Duties of Membership

- 5.1 Membership carries the following duties, privileges and rights:
 - a) the duty to minister to one another's spiritual needs as part of the Body of Christ;
 - b) the duty to financially support the work of the Church as the Lord directs and personal circumstances permit;
 - c) the duty to respect and submit to the spiritual authority and procedures of the Church as expressed in the Church Constitution and Policies;
 - d) the duty and privilege to participate in Church ministries as the Lord directs and personal circumstances permit to the extent that the Board determines is appropriate from time to time;
 - e) the privilege to attend all public meetings of the Church, subject to Section 33.15;
 - f) the duty and privilege to participate in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper subject to I Corinthians 11:27-29;
 - g) the right to attend, speak and participate at all Meetings of Members; and
 - h) the right to a single vote either in person or by proxy at all Meetings of Members (if aged 18 or over), unless the Member is under discipline pursuant to Section 31.1 or inactive pursuant to section 7.4.
- 5.2 A Member may not transfer his membership to a third party

Where can I fit in? Our VOLUNTEER TEAMS

Huron Chapel depends on a dedicated and hard-working group of volunteers that each week show up to help our church’s various ministries happen! Here are some examples of ministry teams you may volunteer for if you qualify. (e.g. criminal record / vulnerable sector checks, references, application forms & interviews required for some positions because [we are a Plan To Protect church](#) and take the safety of our children, youth, and other vulnerable sectors seriously)

● Tech / AV / Sound Booth	● Children Youth and Family (CYF)
● Mens/Womens Ministry	Nursery, Sunday School, Youth
● Greeters	● Worship Team
● Kitchen (Coffee Hour, Potlucks, Funeral, etc.)	● Property
● Tellers (Finance Team)	● Life Groups
● Missions Team	● Prayer Team
● Care and Connect	● 55+ Seniors Fellowship