

Why have membership?

Membership aids the spiritual health of the church and our spiritual health as individuals.

Christians in a local church are called to:

1. Be devoted to each other.

They are to take an active role in the life of the church and a proactive interest in the lives of others attending. (John 13:34-35, Heb 3:12-13, 10:23f, 1 Pe 4:10, 1 Cor 14-15, Eph 4:7-16, etc)

2. Be devoted God's word.

They are to listen to and live out God's word. (Act 2:42, Col 3:16, James 1:21-22, etc)

3. Protect the church from error & immorality.

The local church as a whole is held accountable when false teaching is tolerated (e.g. Gal 1:6-9, Rev 2:20) and when immorality is tolerated (e.g. 1 Cor 5:1-2).

4. Take responsibility for the governance and discipline of the church.

The church as a whole should be involved in the big decisions a church takes such as its direction or the appointment of leaders (e.g. Acts 1:15-26, Acts 6:2-6, 15:12-22, esp 22). The local church is also the final human authority on matters of discipline (Matt 18:15-20, 1 Cor 5:1-5)

5. Be accountable to church leaders.

Christians are to submit to the leadership of the church (e.g. Hebrews 13:17).

We feel a formal membership is the best practical way to help us to fulfil these responsibilities and know who is fully committed to the church.

Membership also helps us in our personal faith by committing us to a local fellowship and receiving the commitment of the church to us.

It also follows a biblical pattern in the early church, where it was clearly possible to identify who belonged and who did not. (e.g. Acts 5:12-13, 1 Cor 5:12-13, 2 Cor 2:6, see also Matt 18:15-17)

What does it involve?

1. Committing to the Grosvenor:

It involves committing to partner with Grosvenor in the work of the Lord, by:

- agreeing with our 'Statement of Faith'
- accepting accountability to the church and the leadership.
- helping to fulfil our aims
- trying to fulfil the 'Expectations of members'.

2. Grosvenor committing to you.

It involves the church as a whole committing to teach you, love you, care and pray for you.

What is expected of members?

To further the aim of Grosvenor, to glorify God as we seek to:

Reach Out - to teach and explain the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ and His claims to all who have not yet turned and trusted in Him.

Build Up - to help one another to grow as followers and friends of the Lord Jesus Christ as we increasingly understand and obey God's Word, the Bible.

Send Out - to serve the wider church and the world by sending people out to serve the Lord Jesus elsewhere.

Members are expected, with the enabling of the Holy Spirit:

- To live a life consistent with the gospel and worthy of our high calling in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- To spend some time each day in prayer and reading the Scriptures in order to maintain a close personal relationship with God.
- Unless unavoidably prevented, to share in Grosvenor's corporate worship on Sundays and to be regular and faithful in the observance of the Lord's Supper.
- To fulfil the ministry of intercession both privately and by being present, whenever possible, at the meetings for corporate prayer.
- To be committed and loving in relationship with all the members of Grosvenor.
- To serve the Lord Jesus Christ in Grosvenor according to the needs of the church and their gifts.
- To accept personal responsibility for the government of Grosvenor as a local church by being present, whenever possible, at the church meetings.
- To give regularly to Grosvenor according to their means in order to support the work of the Lord in and through the church (for example, by standing order through the bank).
- To witness to the Lord Jesus Christ by word and deed as part of the world-wide church's evangelisation of the world, and to try to bring others to Grosvenor in order to hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- To support world-wide evangelistic mission through Grosvenor in accordance with Grosvenor's World Mission Policy.

How is Grosvenor financed?

Entirely through the generosity of its members. We have no other source of income outside our members. We encourage members to commit to give regularly to Grosvenor according to their means, ideally through the bank. We give at least 12% of our income to missionary work and 3% to training bible teachers.

How is Grosvenor governed?

We are an independent, self-governing church, seeking to live under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ as expressed in the Holy Scriptures. Our model of government is 'congregational', which means that the church members' meeting is the ultimate human decision-making body of the church. In practice we have at least three meetings a year at which important decisions are taken by members.

We have a group of 'elders', recognised and, under God, submitted to by the members, who are responsible for the spiritual direction, teaching, pastoral care, and church discipline within the church.

There are several staff members, some full-time, some part-time, some paid, some voluntary, who are vital to the functioning of the church.

There are also many other volunteers who lead in various areas of responsibility and ministry.

We belong to an all-Ireland association of Baptist churches with over 100 churches, each one independent and self-governing. We also co-operate with like-minded churches of various different denominations.

As a matter of principle we are not involved in the ecumenical movement.

Who can be members?

Christians

- who have a real experience of turning from their sin and trusting in the Lord Jesus
- who agree with our Statement of Faith without reservation
- who commit themselves to belong to Grosvenor & serve God and one another within Grosvenor.
- who have been baptised as believers *

*We have a category of Associate Membership for any who have been baptised in another tradition, but are unreservedly supportive of believer's baptism as the practice of the church, although on grounds of conscience have not been baptised as a believer.

Associate membership is also available for those who are members of a church elsewhere but wish to commit themselves to Grosvenor during a temporary period of residence in Dublin. Associate members are encouraged to take an active part in the life of the church, attend church meetings and vote on matters other than constitutional issues or church appointments.

How do I join?

Fill in an application form, available from the church office (01 497 4798/ office@grosvenorbaptist.org) and return it to an elder or the church office.

You will then be interviewed by an elder or staff member who will ask you about how you became a Christian, will go through the Statement of Faith to ensure that you understand it and agree with it wholeheartedly, and will discuss how you can serve most effectively in the church.



www.GrosvenorBaptist.org
Grosvenor Road Baptist Church
Rathmines, Dublin 6, Ireland



Membership

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