



MEMBERS HANDBOOK

⁹The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully **committed** to him. 2 Chronicles 16

⁵ for you have been my **partners** in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. Philippians 1

¹² For as the *body is one* and has *many parts*, and all the *parts of that body*, though many, are *one body*—so also is Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptised by one Spirit into *one body*—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ So the *body is not one part but many*....

.....²⁷ Now **you** are the body of Christ, and individual **members** of it..... 1 Corinthians 12.

Biblical Purpose

Kilsyth Community Church is a family of believers who exist to love God, love our community and make disciples.

Tag Line: Love God, Love Community, Make Disciples

Mission Focus

Kilsyth is a town steeped in rich history with increasing diversity. We are a multigenerational church family that spans young families to longtime members with deep roots of faith. This diversity is our strength, bringing together a wealth of talents and passion for our community.

Our commitment to hospitality and the diversity within our congregation uniquely positions us to build meaningful bridges throughout Kilsyth as we **invite anyone and everyone into a new or renewed journey of faith in Jesus Christ**

Vision

“Spe exspecto” – I look forward with hope.

As a family of believers, we look forward with hope to our community transformed by the gospel. We look forward to freedom from brokenness, loneliness and addiction. We look forward to the peace, joy and goodness of God.

Values

With the bible as our foundation and the gospel as our motivation, our core values bring clarity to the things that matter most at KCC.

Worship

Worship is at the heart of our existence. We are designed to vibrantly practice worshipping God, both corporately and individually. Our true worship is expressed in and through every individual ordinary life. **Romans 12:1, John 4:23-24, Psalm 95:6**

Prayer

Prayer is intimacy with God. God uses prayer to reveal himself, to change us, to bring about change in our lives and the lives of others. Prayer is foundational in our individual and corporate relationship with God.

Jeremiah 33:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Luke 22:32

Hospitality

We express unconditional love and care for others, especially strangers, as a reflection of God's love through self-sacrifice. We foster a culture that intentionally welcomes people, shares resources, and treats individuals with generosity and compassion, both physically and emotionally.

Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:2, 1 Peter 4:9-10

Integrity

We live and walk in faith and obedience before God, each other, and our community. We commit to living lives that are honest, authentic and accountable. We seek to honour one another, speak truth in love, and be peacemakers rather than peacekeepers.

Proverbs 10:9, Micah 6:8, Ephesians 4:15

Discipleship

We are committed to being disciples who make disciples. We will unashamedly invite others into an authentic relationship with Jesus. We never outgrow our need for the gospel; therefore, we are dedicated to a lifelong journey of intentionally deepening our intimacy with God through bible study, obedience, spiritual disciplines, and community.

Matthew 28:19-20 Luke 9:23, 2 Timothy 2:2

What We Believe

The Essentials

Members of Kilsyth Community Church have placed their hope in Jesus and believe in the truth of the Christian faith. While Membership doesn't require us to agree on the finer points of theology, we do need to know that we are partnering around shared essential beliefs about God, humanity, and the Church. Without agreement on these issues, we couldn't say what we are partnering in the purpose, mission, and vision of the church. These are the essentials as set out in Scripture. Partners must believe in these 'basics of the faith'.

God

We believe in one true and living God, who exists eternally as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is holy, loving, just, wise, and unchanging. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, sovereign over history, and worthy of all worship and glory.

The Bible

We believe that God has made Himself known through the Bible, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments. Scripture is God's inspired and trustworthy Word, given for our good and our salvation. It is the final authority for what we believe and how we live, leading us to know God and His purposes for our lives.

Humanity

We believe that all people are created in the image of God, male and female, and therefore have equal dignity, worth, and value. Humanity was created to love God, live in obedience to Him, and reflect His goodness in the world. Marriage is a covenant union between one man and one woman and reflects Christ's love for His Church. Sexual intimacy is God's good gift, intended to be enjoyed within marriage.

Sin and the Fall

We believe that through human disobedience, sin entered the world and broke our relationship with God. As a result, all people are sinners, separated from God, and unable to restore themselves. Sin affects every part of our lives and brings both personal and spiritual brokenness, leaving us in need of God's mercy and grace.

Jesus Christ

We believe that God, in His great love, sent His Son Jesus Christ to rescue and restore us. Jesus is fully God and fully human, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, revealed the truth of God, and willingly gave His life on the cross as a substitute for sinners. By His death, Jesus bore the judgement our sin deserves, and by His resurrection, He defeated sin and death. He now reigns as Lord and intercedes for His people.

Salvation

We believe that salvation is entirely a gift of God's grace. It cannot be earned by good works or human effort. All who repent and place their faith in Jesus Christ are forgiven, justified before God, adopted into His family, and given new life. This saving faith leads to a transformed life marked by obedience, love, and good works as the fruit of a grateful and trusting heart.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is fully God and is present and active today. He brings people to repentance and faith, gives new spiritual life, and helps believers understand and trust God's Word. The Holy Spirit lives within every believer, assuring them of God's love and shaping them to become more like Christ. He also empowers God's people with spiritual gifts for worship, service, and mission, building up the Church and enabling faithful witness in the world.

The Church

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ, made up of all who belong to Him. The Church is expressed through local congregations who gather for worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship, and mission. United by the Holy Spirit, we are called to love God, love our communities, make disciples, and live as a faithful witness to God's grace and truth.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a visible sign of the gospel and a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice offered once for all. At the Table, we remember and participate in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and what it has achieved for us. Communion is to be shared regularly and in-person.

The Future

We believe that Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly to bring history to its fulfilment. He will judge the world with justice and mercy, raise the dead, and make all things

new. Those who trust in Christ will enjoy eternal life in joyful fellowship with God, while those who reject Him will face eternal separation. God will be glorified forever in the new heaven and the new earth.

Our Distinctives

While the above beliefs are essential to our shared mission, KCC also holds beliefs on matters of secondary importance. The following beliefs are not required for Membership at KCC, but they do shape the life and practice of the church. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these matters of secondary importance, one of the elders would be happy to speak with you.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in giving both natural and supernatural gifts to His church. We believe that all of the Ephesians 4 gifts (Eph. 4:11-12) - apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers - are still given by God for the building up of his church.

The Roles of Men and Women

(in process and will be updated soon)

Believers' Baptism

We exclusively believe in and practice believers' baptism by immersion. Baptism, like Communion, is reserved for those who have professed faith in the Lord Jesus. A person who has been baptised as an infant and can explain their conviction Biblically will also be welcomed into Membership at KCC.

MEMBERSHIP

What is Membership?

Members are people who have said no to their old lives, yes to Jesus, and yes to the Kilsyth Community Church family of believers.

Membership is not about privileges we gain but about partnership in the Gospel. We see Members as co-labourers for the advancement of the Gospel in Kilsyth and beyond. To become a member is to partner with us in the pursuit of our love of God, our love of our community and the making of disciples.

Why do we have Membership?

Throughout the Bible, we can see that when people enter into a relationship with God, they also enter into community with His people. Not only do we become one with Christ, but we are joined to one another (Ephesians 4: 1-16). We are to share our lives like a family, loving one another and encouraging each other towards godliness and mission.

God said right from the beginning that it wasn't good for man to be alone (Genesis 2: 18) and commissioned Adam and Eve to build life-giving communities across the earth (Genesis 1: 26-28). After the entrance of sin, we were cut off from God's Presence and our relationships with each other were plunged into chaos (Genesis 3). God had a rescue plan, and it began with a family. A family who would become a nation to bless the nations (Genesis 12: 1-3). When that nation was freed from slavery in Egypt, Moses divided them into God-glorifying communities at the godly advice of Jethro (Exodus 18).

Jesus focused His teaching and training on a group of disciples and then called those disciples, and all those who would follow Him, to do the same – to “go” and “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28: 16-20). That's what the Apostles and the early churches did. They told people about Jesus and displayed His goodness in local towns, cities and regions. As people heard the gospel, put their faith in Jesus and encountered God for the first time, they immediately established churches under the guidance of local leadership. Believers were committed to their local churches and took what it meant to partner with the rest of the believers seriously (1 Timothy 5: 9-12; 1 Corinthians 5: 12-13).

The Bible describes those churches as families of brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers (Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 5:1-2); as Temples where God's Spirit dwells (1 Peter 2:5); and as bodies of many parts connecting to Jesus, The Head (1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:16). People, like us, choosing to partner together in our hearts as local churches in places like Kilsyth are pursuing a shared life in God's advancing Kingdom and restoration of His original design.

In joining together in Membership, we are not looking to test knowledge or levels of intensity but to affirm both our new lives in Christ and our desire to build a godly community of believers together at KCC.

MEMBERSHIP ASPIRATIONS

As Members at Kilsyth Community Church, we commit to a set of aspirations about the kind of life we believe God wants of a local church community like ours.

Belonging

We belong to Jesus and the family of believers at KCC. We aspire to live out the 'one-anothers' of the New Testament.

Welcoming

We aspire to welcome one another as God has welcomed us into his family.

Gathering

We aspire to meet with our church family as a high priority in our lives.

Caring

We aspire to be loving and caring towards God's family, giving of the time, energy, and abilities God has given us.

Serving

We aspire to serve one another as a response to Christ, who came "not to be served, but to serve".

Following

We aspire to follow the leaders that God has put in place at KCC as we follow Jesus, our Chief Shepherd.

Giving

We aspire to give generously to KCC as an act of worship.

Multiplying

We aspire to regularly share the Gospel with the communities we find ourselves in.

At KCC, our membership aspirations are built around four simple rhythms — not rules, but expectations as a response to what God has done for us:

- ▶ Gathering — 'We aspire to meet with our church family for prayer and worship as a high priority' — Not out of obligation, but because the Body needs every part.
- ▶ Serving — 'We aspire to serve on at least one Church team' — Following Jesus who came not to be served, but to serve.
- ▶ Small Groups — 'We are committed members of a KCC Small Group' — Because discipleship happens in proximity, not just in pews.
- ▶ Giving — 'We aspire to give generously as an act of worship' — Participating financially in the mission of KCC as an act of faith, not a transaction.

Giving Details

In giving to KCC, we encourage you to do so generously and cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7) in response to the generous love of God in the Gospel. You can do so through the bank details below.

Name: Kilsyth Community Church SCIO

Sort Code: 83-23-23

Account Number: 00185215

LEADERSHIP

Elders

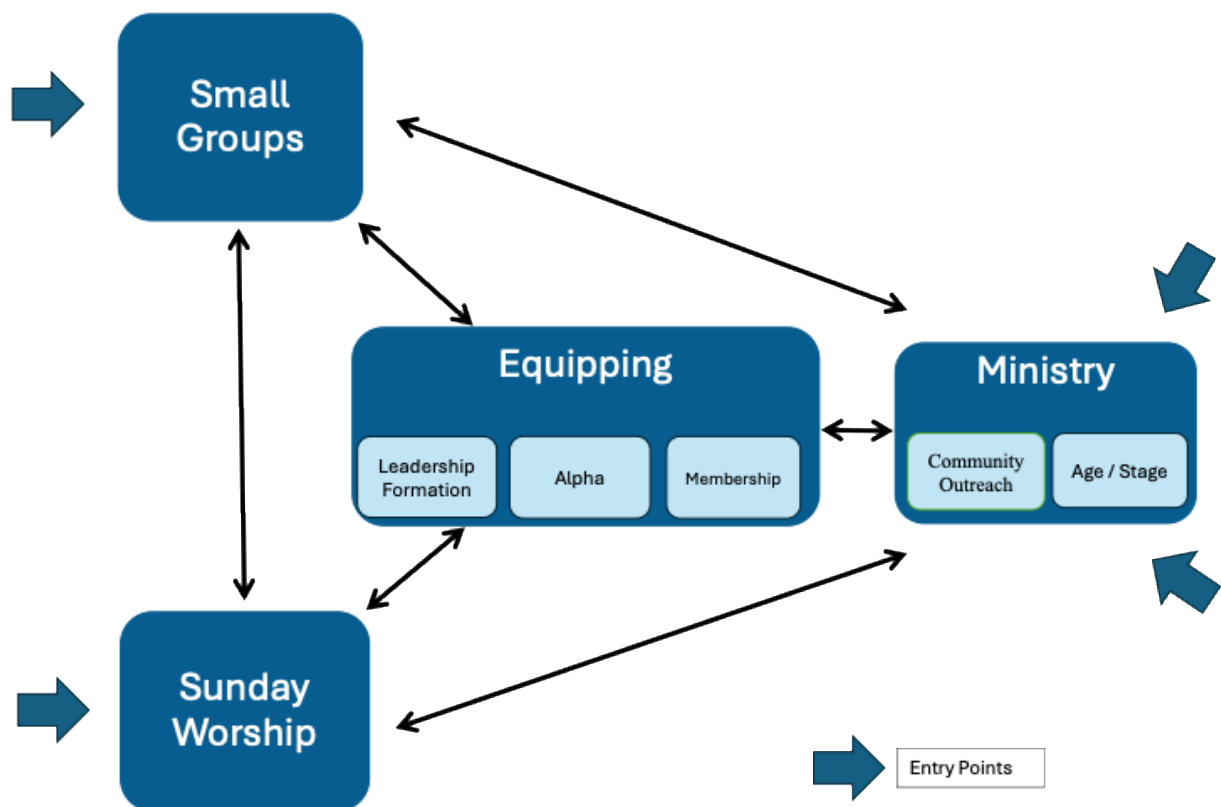
Kilsyth Community Church is an elder-led church, which means elders are appointed as under-shepherds to lead the church towards Jesus, our Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:2-4). All elders should meet the character qualifications laid out in Scripture (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-7) and be able and willing to teach the foundational doctrines of the faith (1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9). They are called to protect the church from false teaching (Acts 20: 28-1) and pray for God's people, including the sick (James 5:14; Acts 6:4).

Our current elders are Gordon Anderson, Stanley Paget, Gareth Holmes, Margaret Finlay, Maureen McLachlan, Wade Thompson

Ministry Leads

Ministry Leads are leaders within the church who either lead a Sunday Team, Small Group/bible study or other area of ministry (e.g. an area of compassion ministry or pastoral support). The aim of these teams is to equip God's saints at KCC for ministry (Eph. 4:12) as part of the body of the church (1 Cor. 12).

Discipleship Pathway



CHURCH SAFEGUARDING

The Bible is saturated with instructions to care for the vulnerable, and we aim to do all we can to create a safe and nurturing environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Safeguarding Policy can be requested at any time and is available to view on our website.

Your safeguarding team:

"Picture"

Maureen McLachlan – Safeguarding Lead

"Picture"

Helen Anderson – Safeguarding Deputy

What to do if you see a safeguarding issue:

- Inform the Safeguarding Lead, *Maureen McLachlan*, as soon as possible.
- If the incident involves the Safeguarding Lead or she is unavailable, inform the Safeguarding Deputy, *Helen Anderson*.
- Fill in an Incident Form,
- If you feel that the incident hasn't been taken seriously, please contact the KCC Pastor and or Elders

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

In the same way that God "disciplines the one he loves" (Heb. 12:6), we too need to be motivated by grace and love in all matters of church discipline. The goal of discipline is restoration (1 Cor. 5:5) and must be motivated by the radical love of God for the person. At every step we are inviting them to be humbled before God, repent of their sin, and restore them both to God and to unity with other believers in the church. The following steps would be used in any case of sin in the church, including leaders, who will be held to a higher account (James 3:1).

Most discipline in the church comes through encouragement and exhortation from one another. A caring friend in the church might gently and wisely question a decision you are making and ask whether you have sought God's guidance. We should seek not to be offended by accountability in the church but view it as an expression of concern that we might be making ourselves vulnerable to sin and its consequences.

If we are truly walking through life together, we can expect to encounter relational challenges with one another. It's how we interact when things go wrong that will often bring the most Gospel growth within the church family. That includes our obedience to what

Jesus says we should do when we believe someone has sinned against us (Matt. 18:15-20). If we notice an issue with a member of the church family, we are to challenge that person lovingly and gently. We mustn't come with the next steps in mind, but humbly, willing to take responsibility for our own faults and lay down our own desires for the sake of one another (Matt. 7:3-5). If there is a refusal to listen, however, we should make another attempt to meet with them, but this time invite a godly believer to go with us to help resolve the disagreement. In that instance, it would be wise to think of someone in the church you both respect.

If things still aren't resolved at that stage and we believe that there is unrepentant sin and a refusal to listen, then the matter should be brought to the elders, who may find it necessary to take the issue to the other Members. If there is still no repentance, or no steps taken to deal with their sin, then Jesus says we should treat that person as we would treat someone who is not a disciple of Jesus (Matt. 18:17). The elders would guide this process.

See 1 Corinthians 5, where Paul addresses an issue of serious and unrepentant sin in this way.