

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

INFORMATION LEAFLET

This leaflet explains what we mean by partnership and explains our doctrine i.e. the set of beliefs we hold to as a church body. We also explain how we believe the Bible calls us to live as a local church family. Please read this information prayerfully as you consider becoming partners in the gospel with Christ Church Paarl. Then submit your completed application form to the church office, after which you will be invited to a personal interview to discuss your application. Feel free to come with your questions.



CHRIST
CHURCH
PAARL



What Partnership means

Through the gospel of Jesus Christ, God is creating a new community that shares the common life of being God's children and brothers and sisters with each other. When someone truly turns to God in Jesus and becomes a follower of Jesus they receive the Holy Spirit and inclusion into this universal body – irrespective of whether you belong to any local church. One day we will all join with countless others who now see God face to face in eternity.

But until then, we are called to work hard at loving God, loving each other and loving the lost. The gospel calls us to be part of the family of God and therefore compels us to be part of a local church – Christians gathered at a particular geographical point.

To be a Christian is to live under the Lordship of King Jesus. He commands us to partner with Him in the glorious work of gospel ministry.

We partner with Him in at least 5 ways:

1. By being committed to and caring for His people (Matthew 25:31-46). This involves being committed to attend our various church meetings. It also involves praying for the church and those in it.
2. By being committed to support the church financially (Philippians 4:10-20). This means we are to give in accordance with what God has given us. Usually this will be regularly or monthly (1 Cor. 16:1,2).
3. By being committed to use your spiritual gifts for the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). This means using the gifts that God has given you for the “common good” of the body of Christ, which is His church.
4. By being committed to His glory through evangelism (Romans 10:14-15). This means we will join in the various evangelistic opportunities that CCP runs by either attending, praying for and inviting others to attend various gatherings.
5. By changing more and more to become like Jesus (Titus 2:11-14). This means encouraging one another to stop sinning and to change into the people that God has called us to be.

We hope and pray that you will be encouraged to join us in our walk with Jesus as our King, God as our Father and the Spirit as our guide.



We believe that a Christian is ...

- someone who admits that they have tried to rule their own lives their own way and as a result has failed to live in a way that pleases God, the Rightful King.
- someone who knows and believes that they deserve to be punished by God because of their rebellion against God.
- someone who believes that God the Son entered this world and became a man, Jesus of Nazareth, in order to die in their place, as a substitute, bearing the penalty that their sin justly deserve.
- someone whom God accepts as being perfectly righteous because they trust solely in Jesus' death on the cross for the forgiveness of their sin.
- someone who has a relationship with God as their Father through Jesus Christ as Lord as they are assisted by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- someone who believes that outside of Jesus, it is impossible to have eternal life and escape the judgment of God.



Our Set of Beliefs (Doctrine)

1. **There is only one God.** God is One and exists eternally in three Persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three Persons are distinct from each other but are never separate from each other.
2. **God has spoken fully, perfectly and finally in the Bible.** The Bible alone, comprising the Old and New Testaments, contains God's reliable teaching and provides us with all we need for salvation and serving God. Jesus and the writings of His authorised spokesmen, whom He specifically commissioned to write the New Testament, are God's full and final revelation to us, not in negation of the Old Testament but in fulfilment. We believe the original autograph of the Bible to be without error.
3. **Jesus died and was physically raised to life again.** God loved us so much that He sent Jesus Christ, His only Son, to die in our place, bearing the punishment we deserve. On the third day Jesus rose bodily and physically from the dead, conquering death and proving that God has fully accepted His sacrifice. Outside of Jesus there is no forgiveness for sin.
4. **Jesus Christ will physically return.** Jesus will return to judge every human being that is alive or has ever lived. Only those who have lived under His Lordship will be rescued from the Judgement that is coming.
5. **God the Holy Spirit is active in the world today.** The Holy Spirit gives us new life and enables us to believe the Gospel, understand the scriptures and to grow to be more like Jesus. The Holy Spirit speaks to us through the Bible. Without Him we cannot do anything to please God.
6. **The Father calls us to worship Him in Spirit and Truth.** We worship God with our lives in simple sincerity, not in ritual nor in emotionalism, but with our minds, bodies and emotions.
7. **We must spread the good news of Jesus.** Since there is only one God who loves people and only one Saviour who gave Himself for people, we must introduce people from every race, culture and nation to Jesus.



Commitment to the local church family

We believe that a Christian is part of the Community of Christ's people and therefore recognises that s/he must commit themselves to obey the Head of the Church, Jesus, by committing to His people in the following ways:

1. Love and care for His people (Matthew 25:31-46). At the very least this will mean not missing Church meetings unnecessarily and praying for the people at CCP. It will also mean committing to a CCP small group bible study unless there are good reasons for not doing so.
2. Support CCP financially in a cheerful and generous spirit (Philippians 4:10-20), and plan giving in accordance with what God has generously given me.
3. Use the spiritual gifts God has given me for the building up of the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). I will find ways where I can contribute actively to the life of CCP.
4. Be committed to His glory through evangelism (Romans 10:14-15). I know that I have a part to play in the corporate task of Evangelism. I will, at the very least, actively pray for the evangelistic events that CCP hosts as well as always be on the lookout to welcome visitors and invite people to Church gatherings.
5. Be committed to changing and becoming more like Jesus in accordance with the moral teachings of the bible that flow from the gospel (Titus 2:11-14). I want to stop sinning and I am committed to encouraging my brothers and sisters to do the same.

MORE INFORMATION:

Christ Church Paarl www.christchurchpaarl.org.za info@christchurchpaarl.org.za
 39 Articles of Religion: www.reachsa.org.za/the-39-articles/
 Christ Church Paarl is a constituent church of REACH-SA Reformed Evangelical
 Anglican Church of South Africa www.reachsa.org.za

