



CARIBOO
BETHEL
CHURCH

Membership Package 2015

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Process For Becoming A Member

We believe being committed to one another in a local church is incredibly important for our growth as followers of Jesus. We express our commitment to each other through membership. The path to membership involves 5 meaningful steps. Please take a look below and remember, we'd love to walk with you through this process, so please don't hesitate to phone or call the church office or connect with a church member.

Step 1: Getting to know each other

Cariboo Bethel is built on strong, committed relationships with others. We are a welcoming community and you are welcome to participate with us. Hang around for a while. Participate on Sunday mornings. Encourage your children to explore Sunday School and Youth Group. Attend the next "CBC 101" if possible, or join a small group. CBC 101 is not a requirement, but it is a great way to learn more about who we are and where we are headed as a church family.

As you do these things, you will experience a sense of welcome. You will develop friendships and a sense of 'being known'. As you spend time with others in the foyer during coffee break or heading out to Sunday lunch with another family, you will begin to know if you've found your 'church home'.

Step 2: Let us know you are interested.

Committed membership in a local church is an exciting step. When you are ready, we would love to have you join God's mission with our church family. Please talk to an elder, a pastor or a member of our leadership team and we will point you to the next step in this process.

Step 3: Read the membership package.

This package contains the essential documents describing who we are, what we believe and what membership 'looks like'. This package also clarifies the requirements for membership in our church family. People who wish to become members:

- Trust Jesus as Saviour and follow Him as the Lord in every area of life;
- Have voluntarily been baptised upon confession of faith;
- Are familiar with the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith and are willing to live in agreement with it;
- Are familiar with our Mission and our Restoration Process and are willing to live in agreement with them;

Step 4: Share your story with the elders.

This may happen at a scheduled church event, or face to face over a cup of coffee. Sharing your testimony allows us to celebrate the evidence of God's work in your life, and to get to know you better. We may ask you to share your story with the church because testimonies encourage us and build our faith.

Step 5: Affirm your membership commitment.

Your affirmation of membership at Cariboo Bethel happens between you and the other members during our church gathering on a Sunday morning. You can affirm your membership on a Baptism Sunday, during our biennial membership re-affirmation, or during another scheduled membership moment. After you affirm your membership commitment, you'll sign a membership affirmation as a way for you and us to remember the commitment you have made.

That's it. Welcome to the Cariboo Bethel Church family!

Cariboo Bethel Church Mission

Our Mission:

To build life transforming relationship with Jesus in ourselves and others.

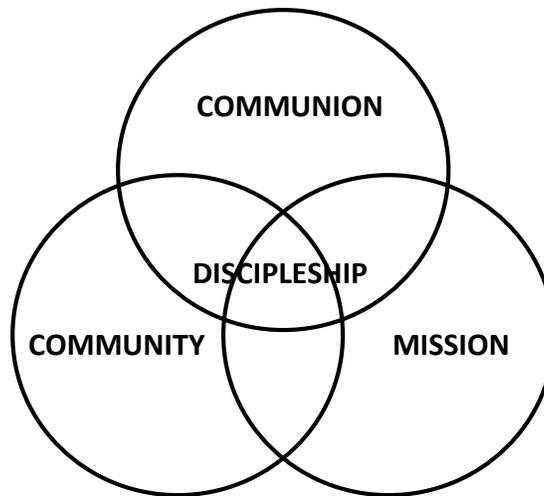
Our Core Priorities: LOVE³

Life Transforming Relationship with Jesus (Discipleship)

Love God (Communion)

Love One Another (Community)

Love Our Neighbour (Mission)



Our Prayer:

“Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven!”

-- Matthew 6:10

Our Culture:

We pursue God’s presence together

We are on God’s Mission together

We practice spiritual community

We take ownership for our growth

We respond to God with courageous faith

We rely on God’s Living Word to speak

We willingly give as God has given to us

We live as Salt and Light in daily life

We pursue wholeness in every part of life

What membership 'looks like' at Cariboo Bethel Church

Members of Cariboo Bethel Church:

- Trust Jesus as Saviour and follow Him as the Lord in every area of life;
- Have voluntarily been baptised upon confession of faith.
- Are familiar with the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith and are willing to live in agreement with it.
- Are familiar with the Cariboo Bethel Church mission and the Cariboo Bethel Church Restoration process and are willing to live in agreement with them.

Members of Cariboo Bethel Church are committed to:

- Working toward the unity, health and peace of our church family;
- Practicing healthy communication and building right relationships with other members;
- Regularly participating in Sunday worship gatherings, small groups and other Cariboo Bethel Church events;
- Taking personal responsibility for their growth, passion and faithfulness as followers of Jesus;
- Using their time, energy and gifts/talents to contribute to the mission, programs and initiatives of this church;
- Giving their financial resources generously and cheerfully to support the annual budget of Cariboo Bethel Church;
- Practicing mutual encouragement and accountability, helping other members to be faithful to God and His Word in matters of faith and life;
- Following the leadership of the Elder Board.

If, for any reason, a member of Cariboo Bethel Church should seek to end their membership:

They are committed to making every effort to maintain reconciled, right relationship with church leadership and other members of this church.

MB Confession Of Faith (Sidewalk Version)

We believe in God as eternal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created and sustains the universe. The eternal purpose of God the Father is to create a people who will bring glory to God forever. God alone is worthy of worship.

We believe that God became human in Jesus Christ. Jesus came to restore the world because humans have rejected God in disobedience. Jesus taught and modeled the way of God's kingdom. He died on the cross, making it possible for us to accept a renewed relationship with God. He rose from the dead, broke the power of sin and death, and frees us to live in obedience to God's will.

We believe that God the Holy Spirit invites all people to be reconciled with God and to join the global family of faith. Believers confess their faith, are baptized, and join in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and guided by the Bible, members of the church seek to live as followers of Christ and invite others to experience this new life.

As Christians, we are called to turn:

- from ignorance of God to a personal relationship with God
- from bondage of sin and past mistakes to freedom, forgiveness, and healing
- from individualism to interdependence with others in the local church
- from lifestyle choices that harm us, others, and the earth to choices that nurture wholeness, healing, joy, and peace
- from hating enemies and ignoring neighbours to showing love and justice to all
- from loving possessions to sharing with all in need
- from aimless existence to a mission of representing and proclaiming God's kingdom on earth

As Christians, we look forward to the day when God will once again send Jesus to bring all things under God's eternal rule.

MB Confession of Faith, Article 6 “The Nature Of the Church”

CALLED BY GOD

We believe the church is the people called by God through Jesus Christ. People who respond in faith are united with the local congregation by the public confession of baptism. Church members commit themselves to follow Christ in a life of discipleship and witness as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

BODY OF CHRIST

The church is one body of believers, male and female, from every nation, race and class. The head of this body is Christ. The church, united by the one Spirit, makes Christ visible in the world. The church exists as local bodies of believers and as a worldwide community of faith.

WORSHIP

The church is nourished and renewed as God’s people gather regularly to glorify God. The early church gathered on the first day of the week to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The worshipping community celebrates God’s faithfulness and grace, reaffirms its faithfulness to God, builds up the members of the body, and seeks God’s will for its life and mission. As the church observes baptism, and the Lord’s Supper, it proclaims the good news of salvation.

FELLOWSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The church is a covenant community in which members are mutually accountable in matters of faith and life. They love, care, and pray for each other, share each other’s joys and burdens, and admonish and correct one another. They share material resources as there is need. Local congregations follow the New Testament example by seeking the counsel of the wider church on matters that affect its common witness and mission. Congregations work together in a spirit of love, mutual submission, and interdependence.

The New Testament guides the practice of redemptive church discipline. The church is responsible to correct members who continue to sin. Congregations forgive and restore those who repent but formally exclude those who disregard discipline.

GIFTS FOR MINISTRY

Through the Holy Spirit, God gives gifts to each member for the well-being of the whole body. These gifts are to be exercised in God’s service to build up the church and to minister in the world.

God calls people to equip the church for ministry. Leaders are to model Christ in their personal, family, and church life. The church is to discern leaders prayerfully and to affirm, support, and correct them in a spirit of love.

Matthew 16:13-20; 18:15-20; John 13:1-20; 17:1-26; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 37-47; 11:1-18; 15:1-35; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; 12-14; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11; Galatians 3:26-28; 6:1-5; Ephesians 1:18-23; 2:11-22; 4:4-6; 4:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9; 1 Peter 2:9-12; 5:1-4

Cariboo Bethel Church Restoration Process

The Cariboo Bethel Church Restoration Process is intended to help us live in accordance with Jesus' teaching regarding a brother or sister living in sin, as found in Matthew 18. The process follows the threefold pattern established by Jesus, and its goal is to rescue and restore those wandering, either unknowingly or deliberately, back to relationship with God.

Stage 1

Personal & Private – Individuals follow the counsel of Jesus in Matthew 18:15 to “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you.” We are called to encourage and challenge one another to Biblical faithfulness with the goal of maintaining spiritual purity and vitality. This step is done in the context of personal relationship and in private. This is an ongoing ‘way of life’ and a part of our normal discipleship. There are no time limits to this stage. We expect that this stage would lead to restoration and righteous living over time as we walk with one another in this way. There are a couple of possible outcomes:

Outcome #1 – Restoration – Relationships are restored, spiritual faithfulness is encouraged, and confidentiality is maintained.

Outcome #2 – Refusal – Encouragement & counsel is refused or challenged. Concerns remain unresolved. The process moves to stage 2 interaction.

Stage 2

Small Group of Friends—When an individual determines that a brother or sister is refusing their encouragement and counsel (Stage 1), the individual is to follow the counsel of Jesus in Mt. 18:16 to “take one or two others along”. The individual should invite one or two trustworthy friends (other members of the church), and together they should prayerfully approach the sinning brother or sister to encourage and challenge him or her to biblical faithfulness and spiritual restoration. This Small group commits to 3-6 months of prayer, encouragement and support for the brother or sister. Again, there are a couple of possible outcomes:

Outcome #1—Restoration—Relationships are restored, spiritual faithfulness is encouraged, and confidentiality is maintained within the small group of friends.

Outcome #2—Refusal-- Encouragement & counsel is refused or challenged. Concerns remain unresolved. The process moves to Stage 3 interaction.

Stage 3

Restoration Team – Referral to Stage 3 follows the counsel of Jesus in Matthew 18:17, “If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church.” Referral occurs when a brother or sister is perceived by the small group of friends to be entrenched in error or persistent, unrepentant sin and has refused restoration. An individual from the small group of friends should make a referral to an Elder or Pastor, a Deacon or a Lead Team member. This should be done with great care and confidentiality. The leader who received the referral builds the Restoration Team. If this is not possible, the leader will connect the referring individual to a Pastor or Elder, who will then build the Restoration Team. The Restoration Team of 3 people is built from a combination of: Elders, Deacons, Lead Team members, and pastors. The goal of this team is personal, collective interaction with the brother or sister in the context of mutual accountability and covenant community. The Restoration Team commits to an intervention lasting 1-3 months, including collective and individual prayer, collective and individual contact, and engaging in persistent redemptive actions. The Restoration Team maintains ongoing contact even if this process is advanced to Stage 4.

Outcome #1 – Restoration – Relationships are restored, spiritual faithfulness is encouraged, and confidentiality is maintained.

Outcome #2 – Rejected – Encouragement, collective counsel, and personal interaction is rejected. Concerns remain unresolved with the individual moving willfully away from godly counsel. The matter is referred to stage 4 by the leader of the Restoration Team

Stage 4

Amber Alert – The Amber Alert Team is engaged as a last resort in the Restoration process, and only when an individual has willfully rejected the counsel and correction of the Restoration Team, thereby setting themselves on a path of spiritual ruin. The Amber Alert Team (the “church”) consists of the committed core given to accountability through ministry partnership and sacrificial service for Jesus. Ideally, the Amber Alert Team consists of the entire pastoral staff, all Elders, the entire Lead Team, Deacons, and Small Group Leaders, with an understanding that participation in the AAT requires absolute confidentiality. In keeping with Matthew 18:17, once the first three steps have been exhausted, the Restoration Team will call the AAT together for prayer and practical intercession. The intervention of the AAT primarily consists of intercessory prayer on behalf of the wayward individual and individual/personal contact when requested by the Restoration team. Such contact should express genuine concern, gentle correction and heartfelt care. The Restoration Team will convey the Church’s commitment to prayer and concern. The AAT should be committed to praying for an individual on a daily basis for a minimum of one month.

Outcome #1 – Restoration – Relationships are restored, spiritual faithfulness is encouraged, and confidentiality is maintained.

Outcome #2 – Removal – Encouragement, prayer intercession, and personal interaction is rejected and the individual moves willfully away from godly counsel and disassociates with church. The Church reluctantly accepts the individual’s decision to leave the church and the subsequent consequence of exclusion from fellowship. Formal membership will be ended by the Elders on behalf of the Church body. The Church recognizes the need for continued prayerful intervention noting the need for a redemptive experience on the part of the wayward individual. The Church continues to operate in a redemptive manner offering the hope of God’s grace, and healing found in the love of Jesus.

Cariboo Bethel Church Membership Affirmation

(Membership affirmation happens in relationship with other church members during a church gathering. This sheet is signed as a part of that affirmation. It provides a way for us and you to remember the commitment you have made.)

I have read the Cariboo Bethel Church membership package. I understand what it means to be a member of this church. With God helping me, I am ready to make this commitment. I affirm my membership at Cariboo Bethel Church. I am "All In".

Please check the one that describes you:

Current Member, Re-affirming

New Member, Affirming

Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Name _____