

What is expected of me?

First, we want to say that as you become a member we are committing ourselves to you! Specifically: to your pastoral care, to helping you to grow spiritually and to use your gifts for the glory of God and the building up of the church.

The New Testament teaching on church commitment means that we expect members to:

- Make every effort to come along on a Sunday. Shared worship helps us to flourish!
- Care for others in the church. We want UCF to be a community of love and mutual care.
- Be involved in a small group midweek. This is very important to develop the kind of supportive relationships that are part of our vision for church life.
- Be involved in serving in the church. We want you to use your gifts for the common good.
- Maintain a lifestyle in line with the teaching of the Bible. We are called to live holy lives to please God and bring honour to Jesus.
- Give regularly. UCF relies on the generous giving of its members.
- Respect leadership. We try to keep a biblical balance between the requirement that leaders be allowed to lead, and that they must be humble and approachable.
- Keep the peace in the church and resolve relational tensions biblically.
- Pray for the church. We hope that church members pray daily for UCF, especially our leaders

Contribute to the process of discerning God's will through attending Members' Meetings.

The Bible says

"Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ... If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it."

1 Corinthians 12:14-2

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Church Membership



What does it mean to be a member of United Church?

united church
ferndown
everyday people transforming lives through Jesus

Join the Family

What is Church Membership?

Church membership, is above all an expression of faith and belonging. When we join a church, we are making a statement about the reality of our faith and our commitment to Jesus. We are also recognising that whilst we all belong to the global family of Jesus, United Church Ferndown (UCF) is our own local church family. So with all its weaknesses and failings, UCF is where I belong.

Membership of the local church should be one of the most fulfilling aspects of Christian discipleship. For some people it is a natural progression to move from commitment to Jesus, expressed in believer's baptism to commitment to Jesus in membership of a local church.

Just as becoming a Christian calls for a step of faith, so a commitment to the responsibilities of church membership may involve trusting God and his people to lead you into one of the most fulfilling aspects of Christian discipleship.

Are there Qualifications?

Let's be clear - you don't have to be a Church Member, or even go to Church in order to be a Christian. But being a part of the life of a group of Christians is the way that we thrive and grow in our faith.

United Church is a Baptist / URC congregation. The Baptist tradition values believers' baptism, and the URC tradition has a place for the baptism of infants. We include people from both traditions.

What is the Process?

If you would like to become a member, please talk to one of our Ministers, Bob or Miriam, or to any of the Deacons. They will arrange for two of our members to visit you to discover how you became a Christian and to briefly talk about what it means to be a church member. Normally they will bring your application to the next church meeting.

After your application is accepted, we will publicly welcome you into membership at the next service that is convenient - normally a communion service.

Family Life

Small Groups

are a vital part of life at UCF. They make it easier to get to know a small and manageable group of people and, through them, to get to know others.

Please talk to one of our Ministers if you wish to join a group. If you haven't been a Christian long, you might like to begin with an Alpha group

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is overseen by the Minister, and worked through by a Care Team Meeting and a number of Care Team Leaders. If you don't know who might be responsible, then just ask Bob or any of the Deacons.

Member's Meetings

Every other month the Church Members meet to discuss the life of the Church, and make decisions about our direction and activities. We hope and expect that Members will make every effort to be a part of that process.

What does it mean?

Being a member means you have taken a significant step of commitment to the church and identification with the church family. That is a practically meaningful way of obeying Jesus' command for us to love one another.

- It means that you have shown you are committed to the whole church, not just your group of friends.
- It means that you know that the other church members are committed to you in Christian love.
- It means that you have put yourself under the pastoral leadership and care of the Minister and Leadership Team: you know they are committed to serving you, to promoting your spiritual health, to helping you when times are hard.
- It means that you have chosen to take your part in decisions which shape the church's direction through the Church Meeting. This provides a proper check so that the Ministers and Leadership Team cannot exercise unlimited authority or act without consulting the wisdom of the church membership.