

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

Being a member allows you to be involved organisationally in the church;

- ❑ By being able to take up positions of ministry leadership within the church, and
- ❑ By being eligible to vote at church meetings. Under the church constitution, members aged 16 and over are eligible to vote in elections for Elders, appointment of the Senior Pastor and to approve any loan borrowings by the church.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER ?

Admission to membership of Warragul Church of Christ is outlined in our constitution.

“There shall be admitted to the Church membership any person satisfying one of the following criteria:

- a) *Those who have been baptised by immersion in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, upon public confession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.*
- b) *Those who are transferred from another Church of Christ by correspondence certifying their good standing and fellowship.*
- c) *Those who have been a member of another Christian Church who wish to embrace the work and witness of Churches of Christ as set out in this Constitution and who have the endorsement of the Leadership Group as to their diligence in faith, worship and service.”*

People who are baptised through this church will be given the opportunity to become members either at the time of baptism or at a later date.

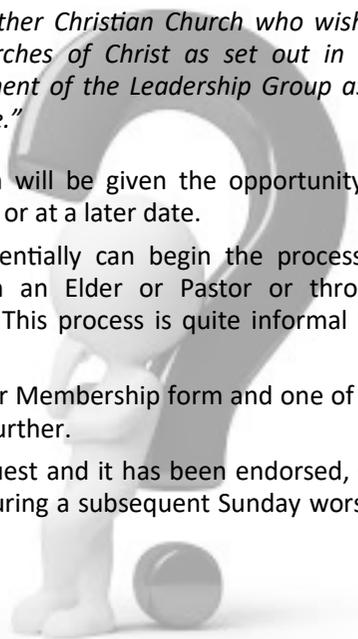
People transferring from another church essentially can begin the process of becoming a member through speaking with an Elder or Pastor or through attending a Membership information session. This process is quite informal and straightforward.

Alternatively, you can complete our Request for Membership form and one of our Leadership Team will contact you to discuss it further.

Once we have received your membership request and it has been endorsed, you will be officially welcomed into membership during a subsequent Sunday worship service.

STILL MORE QUESTIONS ?

Feel free to speak with an Elder or Pastor. We'd love to talk with you.



next steps MEMBERSHIP



Being a member of the church is important for a number of reasons. If you have been attending our church for a while, you may be considering whether to take the next step to become a member. If you are, we hope this booklet will give you the information you need to reach a decision.

WHY MEMBERSHIP?

Church membership is a way of officially identifying yourself with other believers within the church. It provides a powerful, symbolic message to the pastors and other members of the church (and to God as well, although He already knows your heart) that you intend to be committed to the church and are willing to be identified as a representative of it.

Church membership is also valuable for organisational purposes and a good way of determining who is allowed to vote on important church decisions and/or who is involved in official church positions and functions.

Church membership is simply a way of saying, “I am a Christian; I agree with the essential beliefs and practices of Warragul Church of Christ and commit myself to doing my bit to extend God’s Kingdom here.”



next steps

MEMBERSHIP

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF A LOCAL CHURCH ?

It means you have made a commitment to join with others to help build up the Kingdom of God in this local community. We are effectively saying;

- I will be here to worship and to serve in this local church.
- I will be here to support other members of the church.
- I will pray that Jesus Christ will be glorified in this local body.
- I will give of my time, talents, and possessions to build up this local body.
- I will submit to the leadership and authority of the elders.

We are also saying, when we join as a member of the church, that we agree in the foundational beliefs and practices of the church.

SO, WHAT ARE THE FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS OF WARRAGUL CHURCH OF CHRIST ?

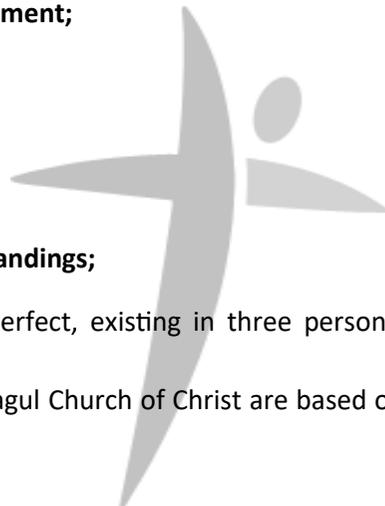
In part, it can be found in our mission statement;

Warragul Church of Christ aims to;

- *Love God,*
- *Make Disciples,*
- *Serve Others.*

In part, it can be found in our core understandings;

- There is one God, who is infinitely perfect, existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The beliefs and teachings of the Warragul Church of Christ are based on the Bible.



- We believe that the Bible is the inspired and infallible word of God and is a record of His revelation of Himself to people throughout history. We affirm the scriptures as our authority for Christian belief and practice.
- We believe that Jesus is the risen Son of God and Saviour of humanity.
- We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to mankind by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We recognise that it was Christ's precious blood that was shed on the cross at Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins.
- We encourage people to follow their commitment to Jesus by expressing their faith through baptism by immersion.
- Each Sunday we celebrate Communion. In communion we reaffirm our belief in the message of the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- It is clear in the New Testament that we are encouraged to give our finances, generously and cheerfully, to Him as a measure of the appreciation we have for all that He has done for us. At Warragul Church of Christ, we encourage the practice of tithing and demonstrate this by committing one tenth of our offering income to ministry outside of the church each year.

And in part, it can be found in things that we value;

- Being Christ-centred, spirit-led and biblically grounded.
- Being authentic, loving, transparent and inclusive.
- Being in a living and growing journey with Jesus Christ.
- Being known as a people of prayer.
- Supporting and encouraging one another.
- Being outward focused and culturally relevant in all aspects of church life.
- Being ambassadors for Christ in our wider community.
- Being generous givers of our time, talents and finances.
- Identifying and releasing ministry gifts throughout the church.
- Being known as a congregation of joy, praise and celebration.