

MEMBERSHIP AT RBC

Membership at Rostrevor Baptist Church consists of two types, Covenant and Voting. The following paragraphs from the Rostrevor Baptist Constitution (adopted 17th September, 2007) describe these memberships and their responsibilities.

1. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the covenant community of the church is through a common sharing of the Christian life of those who form the community of Rostrevor Baptist Church in line with the aims and objectives of the church.

1.1 Covenant members.

In accordance with the biblical principles outlined in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and the beliefs stated in paragraph 2.5 of this Constitution; all who confess Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour and desire to be associated in Christian fellowship with Rostrevor Baptist Church are considered to be covenant members of the local

body of Christ and may participate in the ministries and life of the church under the direction of the church and its duly appointed leaders.

1.2 Voting Members

Members may choose to participate further in the service life of the church by becoming Voting Members and attending Members' Meetings.

1.2.1 Voting Membership of the church is open to all who know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, who confess Him as the only way of salvation (John 14:6, Acts 4:12), who have received baptism by immersion in water as believers, hold to the beliefs of the church, who desire to be committed to Rostrevor Baptist Church as a local body of believers, and to participate in the spiritual ministry of discernment and decision making on behalf of the church community.

1.2.2 Any believer who satisfies the above requirements and desires to be baptised but is prevented by disability shall also be eligible for voting membership.

1.2.3 In the light of the Baptist distinctive of freedom of conscience, any believer who has received baptism in another Christian tradition and who satisfies the Elders' Council of the genuine nature of their faith and regeneration in Christ shall be eligible for voting membership.

1.2.4 All members of the church at the introduction of this Constitution shall be considered voting members

1.2.5 All applications for voting membership shall be made to the Administrator who will submit the name(s) to the Elders' Council who will be responsible to determine the application for membership. The Elders' Council will have the responsibility to admit new voting members and will publish the name(s) in the church bulletin for two weeks and

report the names of new members to the next Members' Meeting.

1.4 Resignations

A member (either covenant or voting) may resign by giving written notice thereof to the Administrator.

1.5 Expulsion of a Member

The church shall have the power, on the recommendation of the majority of the Elders' Council, to admonish, suspend or expel any church member (whether covenant or voting) for misconduct (Matt 18:15-20; Gal 6:1). Where the Elders' Council believe any such recommendation to be appropriate they shall expeditiously refer the matter to a members' meeting for resolution.

1.6 Register of Voting Members

The Administrator shall maintain a register of Voting Members. Voting Members who do not attend or lodge a proxy for any Members' meetings for the greater of a period of twenty-four months or 4 consecutive meetings shall be considered covenant rather than voting members and an amendment shall be made to the register reflecting this and the member advised. The Elders' Council shall have the power to decide any exemptions in special circumstances.

1.7 Duties of Covenant Members

Covenant Members shall be expected to contribute to the life of the body as they are able and gifted under the direction of the church's leaders in line with the Statement of Faith of the church as they:

- 1.7.1 Glorify God in the worship and work of the Church.
- 1.7.2 Join as fully as possible in Congregational worship, and community life, listening to God's Word and sharing in the Lord's Supper.
- 1.7.3 Lead a Christian life, studying the Scriptures and engaging in regular private prayer.
- 1.7.4 Serve harmoniously with others in the fulfilment of the Church's objectives, seeking to build up other believers in love and spiritual growth.
- 1.7.5 Give faithfully according to financial means and personal abilities, and with a thankful heart, to the work and witness of the Church and sharing a faith testimony into the wider community.
- 1.7.6 The church may maintain a record of Covenant members for church purposes.

1.8 Duties of Voting Members

Voting Members are required to fulfil all of their responsibilities as Covenant Members, and in addition, to participate in the Meetings of Members, sharing with other believers in the process of discovering the will of the Lord in matters of Church business.

Next Step

If you wish to make application for Voting Membership please fill in the enclosed application form and forward it to the church office for processing. Applications can also be lodged via the church website www.rostrevorbaptist.asn.au