



Membership at MCC Brisbane

Metropolitan Community Church welcomes people of all faiths or no faith, regardless of past history or present circumstances. We encourage people from both the LGBTIQ+ and straight communities to become members of the church, and we embrace people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. We celebrate diversity and welcome people in all their full range of sexual expression and gender identity.

You do not have to renounce your former faith or leave your existing church (if you have one) but instead are invited to bring your cultural and spiritual heritage with you into a church that respects your beliefs and invites you to journey with us. MCC is a safe place for all people to worship God and serve our community. We encourage you to be your authentic self, as you become a harmonious, whole person.

Membership Requirements

The MCC Brisbane Bylaws state that membership is open to any baptised Christian who, for a period of six months or more:

1. Attends worship regularly
2. Provides financial support
3. Makes a service contribution
4. Demonstrates interest and loyalty.

Membership is usually offered after completing membership preparation (e.g. class or an extended interview with the pastor). To become a member, the person must be recommended by an existing member and be voted into membership by a majority of the Church Board (Board of Directors). Membership is maintained by continuing to fulfil the criteria listed above (points 1-4).

Explanation of the Requirements

Baptism includes christening as an infant or adult baptism, by immersion or by sprinkling. You are not required to prove your baptism or christening, provided you can assure the Board of Directors that this has happened. If you have not been baptised, the pastor can arrange a baptism for you.

You need to demonstrate your interest by your regular attendance at worship services, although obviously you are not required to attend church every Sunday. The suggested period of probation is six months. We do not check the offering plate to make sure you give money - membership does *not* depend on money. Everyone's financial situation is different. We simply offer you the opportunity to give as God has blessed you. Churches, including MCC Brisbane cost money to run and maintain. Our expenses include rent, insurance, stationary and printing, communications, supper as well as pastoral wages (the latter from 1 January 2018). The Bible speaks of being generous in our giving and mentions both tithes (10% of our increase) to support God's work directly as well as freewill offerings for special needs.

Service contributions include helping out in worship services by reading Scripture, offering prayer (as you are able) or by assisting with physical arrangements (for example the kitchen, or putting out chairs or greeting newcomers). Demonstrating interest and loyalty means that you keep in touch

with MCC, even if you are away from church for some weeks. An email to let us know what you are doing or where you are helps to let us know that you are still in our loop.

Membership Class

Attendance at Membership Class is highly desirable and for most people is the usual preparation. A class is an efficient way of several people meeting face-to-face with the pastor so that you can learn what it means to be a member of MCC Brisbane. The membership class includes PowerPoint and other visual demonstrations, as well as providing opportunity for questions and group discussion.

Membership preparation is an attempt to be up-front and honest with you so that you know exactly what you are getting yourself into in advance. You have the opportunity to make your own informed decisions. The Membership Class usually meets over four one-hour sessions. Normally the sessions are held once a week on Sunday evenings 5:30-6:30pm (before the church service starts at 7pm.) Everyone is invited to attend the classes and you do not have to join the church at the end of the series.

Membership does not depend on attending the membership class, and some may not be able to attend every class. Please see the pastor if you need to make other arrangements.

Interviews

On completion of the Membership Class, the pastor will schedule a personal interview with you. The interview will review the main points from the Membership Class to ensure that you understand. The pastor will also explain the questions in the Affirmation of Faith that you will make before becoming a member and discuss any concerns you may have. You will also be able to read and discuss the questions carefully in advance, so that you can answer, “yes” to each question as you make your Affirmation of Faith before the church. The pastor will confirm that you are making this choice of your own free will based on all the information.

You will be asked to provide your full name (for the certificate of membership), and contact details, such as address, email address and phone number, so that the church can keep in contact with you. You are only asked to share as much information as you are comfortable with – all information is kept strictly confidential and is never given to a third party. After the interview, the Pastor will recommend your name to the Church Board for membership. The Church Board will vote on the recommendation.

Membership Celebration

We schedule regular membership commitment ceremonies at MCC Brisbane. You will be advised when the next ceremony will take place, usually held during our regular worship service. The church is very flexible about timing and will schedule the service around your convenience as far as possible.

At the ceremony, the pastor will explain what it means to a member of the Body of Christ, the church. The pastor will outline the roles and responsibilities of church members. Then you will be invited to stand in front of the church to express your faith by answering a series of questions. On your reply in the affirmative, the church will welcome you into fellowship and you will be presented with a membership certificate. A special dedication prayer will follow in which the church officers and other church members will participate. You will then be eligible to vote in Congregational Meetings and (after a period of time) nominate for church office.

Metropolitan Community Church
Brisbane