



St Stephens
Bible Church

**Application for
MEMBERSHIP**

Information Leaflet

Thank you for your enquiry regarding membership of St Stephens Church. We would love to have you as a part of our family. We believe the following things and ask you to assent to these as part of your membership. We ask you to prayerfully read this brochure and then complete the application by signing your agreement of the declaration.

A BASIC STATEMENT OF WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. The Authority of Scripture

The Bible says it, which means that God says it, that settles it.
(2 Timothy 3:15-17)

2. Humankind's Sinfulness

God created the world good. He created it in order that people might live in fellowship with him and love him. We have all rejected him and endeavour to live life our own way the Bible calls this sin.
(Revelation 4:11; Romans 3:23)

3. Judgement

God will judge and punish us as a result of our rebellion.
(2 Thessalonians 1: 8-9)

4. Christ our only Hope

Because of his love for us, God has sent his only son into our world, the man Jesus Christ. He was sinless and came to take our punishment upon himself by dying in our place on the cross. God raised him from the dead and so he has conquered death and is the ruler of the world.
(1 Peter 2:22-24; 1 Peter 1:3)

5. Necessity of conversion

The only way for us to escape the coming judgement is for us to turn to Christ to be saved. This involves, no longer rejecting God's authority and rule of our lives, but handing our lives over to Jesus to run as King. We plead for his forgiveness, mercy and salvation.
(John 3:36)

6. Holiness - the result

As a result of the change in our allegiance, our lives will change. We must consistently be growing like Jesus as evidence of the reality of our change of allegiance.

As a member of St Stephens Church, we require that you hold to the above statement of belief and sign your assent on the application form.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Membership brings with it responsibilities and obligations. Listed below are some of the Bible's main expectations of you.

1. The Bible is the Word of God. As a result a Christian should be involved in regular Bible study personally, in a small group and in church. This is essential for spiritual development.
2. A Christian's life should be filled with regular prayer.
3. Godliness is our normal response to God's grace. Every Christian should pursue Christlikeness in every aspect of their lives.
4. Lost people matter to God and therefore all Christians should be involved in evangelism.
5. All Christians are gifted by God and should be using these gifts in some aspect of service for the church.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What kind of a denomination is CESA?

The Church of England in South Africa (CESA) is an Anglican church with roots dating back to the English Reformation in the 16th century. Our doctrinal position is based solely upon the Bible and all other authorities are submissive to it. This position has historically been outlined in the 39 Articles and we ascribe to these as a statement of our doctrinal position. The CESA is governed by bishops who are accountable to a Synod of all constituent churches.

2. What is St Stephens Church Claremont?

St Stephens Church Claremont is a constituent church of the CESA. A Constituent Church is a church with full voting rights and responsibilities. We as a church exist to help Non-Christians to become Christians and then to help Christians grow in Christlikeness and serve in furthering his kingdom.

3. What if I'm already a member at another church

You can simply transfer your membership to St Stephens by doing the following:

a) from a REACH SA sister church:

Contact that church's administration office and request that they compile a "transfer of membership" letter for you, and send it (post or email) to St Stephens Church, for our attention. (if you're not sure that your previous church belongs to the same denomination, check on the website www.reachsa.org.za)

b) from a non-REACH church:

Please fill in a new application form and hand to admin office.

3. What happens to the money that I give?

Our financial policy is based upon the Biblical principle of generosity. Members give a generous portion of their income to advance gospel ministry as a sign of their gratitude to God for what he has done for them. We as a church, endeavour to be generous in our support of Christian ministry worldwide. We give away at least 11% of our income to ministry outside our church. 10% of all money we receive goes to the denomination and another 2% of all income is given to social concerns. The balance of the money is used to fund gospel ministry locally at St Stephens. We follow a policy of strict accountability and integrity in the matter of money. Our financial statements are open documents and are available at any time for anyone to inspect. Our policy is for our financial affairs to be audited annually.