

# Application for Membership

Thank you for considering membership of the St Stephens Church family. We believe the following things, which you would need to agree with, as part of your membership. We ask you to prayerfully read this brochure and then complete the application form by signing your assent of these things.

## 1. The Authority of Scripture

The Bible is God's Word to the human race. We submit ourselves to the careful, prayerful study of it as God's Word to us (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

## 2. God is the Loving Creator of the World

God created the world. He created it good in order that people might love him and live in fellowship with each other.

## 3. Humankind's Sinfulness

All humans rejected God. We endeavour to live life our own way which the Bible calls sin. (Revelation 4:11; Romans 3:23). 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 in repentance and faith. This involves no longer rejecting God's authority and rule of our lives but instead submitting to his rule. We plead for his forgiveness, mercy and salvation which God graciously gives to us (John 3:36).

## 6. Holiness the Result

As a result of the change in our allegiance, God's Holy Spirit comes to live in us. Our lives are changed and we consistently grow to become more like Jesus.

# Responsibilities

Membership brings with it responsibilities and obligations.

1. St Stephens is a family. We expect you to come to church.
2. All members of St Stephens are in a Life Group. This gives us an opportunity to study the Bible and hear from God. It also gives us an opportunity to love others and be loved by them
3. Christians are regular in their personal Bible reading.
4. Christians pray.
5. Christians pursue godliness which is our normal response to God's grace.
6. Lost people matter to God and therefore Christians share their relationship with God with other people.
7. All Christians are gifted by God and use their gifts to serve and love others.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **1. What kind of a denomination is REACH-SA?**

The Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa (REACH-SA) is the official operating name of the Church of England in South Africa (CESA). It 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. This position has historically been outlined in the 39 Articles. REACH is governed by bishops who are accountable to a Synod of all constituent churches. For more information, consult [www.reachsa.org.za](http://www.reachsa.org.za)

## **2. What is St Stephens Church - Claremont?**

St Stephens Church - Claremont is a constituent church of REACH-SA. 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 to maturity. For more information, consult our website [www.ststephens.org.za](http://www.ststephens.org.za)

## **3. What happens to the money that is given?**

Our financial policy is based upon the Biblical principle of generosity. Members give a generous portion of their income to advance gospel ministry. We as a church endeavour to be generous in our support of Christian ministry worldwide. We give away approximately 15% of our income to ministries outside of our church while 10% goes to the denomination. The balance of the money is used to fund gospel ministry locally at St Stephens - a large portion is used to pay staff salaries.

We follow a strict policy of accountability and integrity in the matter of money. Our financial statements are open documents and are available at any time for inspection. Our treasurer publishes quarterly updates so all members know how the money is being used. Our policy is for our financial affairs to be audited annually. Most members give via eft; this is the most cost-effective. You can also use Snapscan to give.



**St Stephens**  
Bible Church

**APPLICATION**  
*for*  
**MEMBERSHIP**

Our bank details are: Standard Bank Rondebosch: a/c 071 418 326  
Branch code 025109