



# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

# Becoming a Member

## Church Membership

We're delighted that you are interested in becoming a member of Mission Creek Alliance Church. What follows are a few details you will need to know as you prayerfully consider supporting the work God is doing through MCA in an official way through church membership.

## What is Membership?

Becoming a member at Mission Creek Alliance Church is about publicly binding your heart, life, and efforts to the work that God is doing in and through the people and leadership at MCA. Church members:

- **Follow Jesus** -- We commit our whole selves to following Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. We're about the Great Commandments of Love (Matthew 22:37-39) and The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). We have followed Jesus in being baptized at an age where we understood what it signifies.
- **Support The Vision & Values of MCAC** -- We support the vision and values of the church, set by its leadership, with all that God has entrusted to us--our words, our time, our gifts, our prayer, and our finances.
- **Submit Themselves to God's Authority** -- We are willing to be held accountable by God and the leadership whom He has called into service at MCA, as they submit themselves to Christ, the head of the church.
- **Agree with the Christian & Missionary Alliance Statement of Faith** -- We are in agreement with the Statement of Faith in the Christian & Missionary Alliance of Canada.

## Why Become a Member of Mission Creek Alliance Church?

While you won't find the word "member" in the New Testament, throughout it's pages we read about followers of Jesus who had committed their whole lives to living out the Great Commandments and Commission in local churches under the guidance and authority of local church leaders. At Mission Creek Alliance Church we believe that formally and publicly supporting the work that God is doing in the local church is an important step in discipleship, growing into our life in Christ. As such, church members are invited into a greater capacity to lead and shape who we become at MCA, both as a voting member at our Annual General Meeting and being eligible to serve on our Board of Elders.

## How Do I Become A Member?

Becoming a member begins with a commitment to the four areas listed above. A commitment to: follow Jesus (which includes being baptized at an age where you understood what it meant); support the vision and values of MCA; submit to God's authority entrusted to the leadership at MCA; and the statement of faith of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Canada. Once you've prayerfully considered these things you will then need to:

1. **Sign up for one of our membership classes** -- These classes take place twice a year and last approximately 2 hours. During the class you will hear more about who we are and where we are going, and about our heritage as a Christian and Missionary Alliance of Church. Dates of these classes can be found on our website.
2. **Write out a one page description of your story** -- We would like to know a bit more about your journey with Jesus. You will need to bring this testimony with you to the membership class.
3. **Read through and complete the attached membership application** -- This includes information about the Christian & Missionary Alliance, our values and beliefs, and a membership covenant. You will need to bring this signed application with you to the membership class.
4. **Meet with an Elder** -- This will happen at the end of the membership class. The intent is to go through your application, to touch base on any questions that arise, and to be prayed for as you step into a new phase in your Christian life here at Mission Creek Alliance Church.

# Focus & Guiding Values of MCA

## A Simple Focus

Why do we, as a community, exist? It's an important question that every church must ask themselves. Yet, we need not look far for an answer. God's people exist for the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-19) — Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples. The question that often goes unanswered, however, is how will we live out this calling effectively in our unique place and time in history? At Mission Creek Alliance Church our answer to this important question comes through a simple focus.

Mission Creek Alliance Church has a simple focus: To *Encounter* Jesus, *Empower* People, and *Engage* Our City & Beyond.

**Encounter:** We create environments and opportunities for people to encounter Jesus and experience his transforming love.

**Empower:** We take steps together to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to flourish as whole human beings.

**Engage:** We are engaged with the people and needs of our city and beyond to make Jesus famous.

While this simple focus of Encounter, Empower, Engage is the vision we live into, it is also our process for making disciples. In all we do, we desire to move people from an encounter with Jesus toward wholeness through the Holy Spirit's empowering, and ultimately to join God in his mission for our city and the world beyond.

Our life together looks something like this:



We live into this vision driven by four guiding values:

- **Prayer** - to root ourselves in God's love and will
- **Authenticity** - to cultivate genuine, real, and honest people
- **Belonging** - to create a community where people are accepted and included
- **God's Word** - to affirm God's authority in our lives through his Word to us - the Bible

# The Christian & Missionary Alliance



## Our Family Roots

Throughout its 100-plus year history, the C&MA has made Jesus its focus. Founder, Dr. A. B. Simpson, articulated the Christian life as being all about Jesus—our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King. This fourfold focus on Jesus Christ is the spiritual “DNA” of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

One of Simpson’s life verses speaks of: “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). This fourfold focus points to the fact that as we experience Jesus in these ways (Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer, Coming King), we will experience this “hope of glory”.

As a church family, we want to encounter Jesus, the risen Christ, personally and corporately, in the fullness of his work within us. The following is a brief explanation of the key ways we have come to begin to experience Jesus by the work of his Spirit to the glory of the Father:

**Saviour** -- The cross stands for salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

*"...God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." ~ John 3:16*

**Sanctifier** -- The laver represents sanctification, that daily cleansing from sin by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

*"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it." ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24*

**Healer** -- The pitcher speaks of oil for divine life and physical healing that come through obedience to God's Word.

*"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted...and by his wounds, we are healed." ~ Isaiah 53:4, 5b*

**Coming King** -- The crown symbolizes the return of our Lord Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

*"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." ~ Acts 1:11*

# C&MA Statement of Faith

## What We Believe

### God

There is one God,<sup>1</sup> who is infinitely perfect,<sup>2</sup> existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.<sup>3</sup>

### Jesus

Jesus Christ is true God and true man.<sup>4</sup> He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.<sup>5</sup> He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures.<sup>6</sup> He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest.<sup>7</sup> He will come again to establish His kingdom of righteousness and peace.<sup>8</sup>

### Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, sent to indwell,<sup>9</sup> guide, teach and empower the believer, and to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.<sup>10</sup>

### Bible

The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of people. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.<sup>11</sup>

1- Isa. 44:6; 45:5-6

2 - Matt. 5:48; Deut. 32:4

3- Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19

4- Phil. 2:6-11; Heb. 2:14-18; Col. 2:9

5 - Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:35

6 - 1 Cor. 15:3-5; 1 John 2:2; Acts 13:39

7 - Heb. 4:14-15; 9:24-28

8 - Matt. 25:31-34; Acts 1:11

9 - John 14:16-17

10 - John 16:7-11; 1 Cor. 2:10-12

11 - 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

12 - Gen. 1:27

13 - Rom. 8:8; 1 John 2:2

14 - Matt. 25:41-46; 2 Thes. 1:7-10

15 - Titus 3:5-7; Acts 2:38; John 1:12; 1 Cor. 6:11

16 - 1 Thes. 5:23

17 - Acts 1:8

18 - Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:16-25

19 - Matt. 8:16-17; James 5:13-16

20 - Eph. 3:6-12; 1:22-23

21 - Acts 2:41-47; Heb. 10:25; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8, 11:19-30; 15

22 - 1 Cor. 15:20-23

23 - 2 Thes. 1:7-10

24 - 1 Thes. 4:13-17

25 - 1 Cor. 1:7; Titus 2:11-14; Matt. 24:14; 28:18-20

## **Sin**

Humankind, originally created in the image and likeness of God,<sup>12</sup> fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All people are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>13</sup> The destiny of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment, but that of the believer is everlasting joy and bliss.<sup>14</sup>

## **Freedom from Sin**

Salvation has been provided only through Jesus Christ. Those who repent and believe in Him are united with Christ through the Holy Spirit and are thereby regenerated (born again), justified, sanctified and granted the gift of eternal life as adopted children of God.<sup>15</sup>

## **Christian Living**

It is the will of God that in union with Christ each believer should be sanctified thoroughly<sup>16</sup> thereby being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to God, receiving power for holy living and sacrificial and effective service toward the completion of Christ's commission.<sup>17</sup>

This is accomplished through being filled with the Holy Spirit which is both a distinct event and progressive experience in the life of the believer.<sup>18</sup>

## **Healing**

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil as taught in the Scriptures are privileges for the Church in this present age.<sup>19</sup>

## **Church**

The universal Church, of which Christ is the Head, consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and commissioned by Christ to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the Gospel to all nations.<sup>20</sup>

The local church, the visible expression of the universal Church, is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together to worship God, to observe the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, to pray, to be edified through the Word of God, to fellowship, and to testify in word and deed to the good news of salvation both locally and globally. The local church enters into relationships with other like-minded churches for accountability, encouragement and mission.<sup>21</sup>

## **Life after death**

There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life;<sup>22</sup> for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.<sup>23</sup>

## **Second Coming of Christ**

The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal and visible.<sup>24</sup> As the believer's blessed hope, this vital truth is an incentive for holy living and sacrificial service toward the completion of Christ's commission.<sup>25</sup>



# Membership Covenant

## **My Commitment As A Member**

In becoming a member of Mission Creek Alliance Church, I understand that every member is a minister and important to the spiritual life and health of the church. Membership is an outward and public commitment I make to demonstrate my love for Jesus, his followers, and the mission Jesus has given to his Body, the church. In becoming a member of Mission Creek Alliance Church, I commit to the following:

### **I will protect the unity of my church**

- ...By acting in love toward other members
- ...By refusing to gossip
- ...By honouring those in places of leadership

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus..." (Romans 15:5)*

*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." (Ephesians 4:29)*

*"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you." (Hebrews 13:17)*

### **I will share the responsibility of my church**

- ...By praying for its health and growth
- ...By committing to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with friends and neighbours
- ...By warmly welcoming everyone

*"To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly." (1 Thessalonians 1:2)*

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)*

*"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:7)*

**I will serve the ministry of my church**

- ...By discovering my gifts and talents
- ...By being equipped to serve by my pastors
- ...By developing a servant's heart

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)*

*"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." (Ephesians 4:11-12)*

*"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." (Philippians 2:3-4, 7)*

**I will support the testimony of my church**

- ...By participating faithfully
- ...By pursuing a godly life
- ...By giving regularly

*"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)*

*"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ." (Philippians 1:27)*

*"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering." (1 Corinthians 16:2)*

**I will pursue the values of my church**

Our values are the way we feel called to live out the purposes and plans God has called us to as a church family. No matter what we do, we desire that the following values give shape to every aspect of our life and ministry as a local Body of Christ: We value authentic relationships, developing leaders, interdependence, missional living, and transformation.

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Name

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Signature & Date

# Membership Application

I desire to become an active member of Mission Creek Alliance Church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, agreeing to accept the rights, privileges and obligations of a Member under its church constitution and bylaws.

I confirm:

I have placed my personal faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour and have attached a written copy of my personal testimony.

I have publicly declared my faith by water baptism as an adult.

I have read, agreed with, and will uphold the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada's Statement of Faith.

I recognize the spiritual authority of the Board of Elders under the Lord Jesus Christ to administer discipline over members and agree to accept any disciplinary decision of the Elders as a condition of being accepted into membership.

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Name

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Signature & Date

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Address

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Phone Number & Email Address

# APPENDIX: Membership By-Laws

## Local Church Constitution of the C&MA

### ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1: Privileges and Qualifications

There shall be a voting membership and such additional types of association as may be defined in the bylaws. The privileges of membership include eligibility to vote, to be considered for election to serve on the Board subject to Article VIII and such further privileges as may be specified in the bylaws.

The qualifications for membership include a credible testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ before members of the Board; believer's baptism; a commitment to the principles of the Preamble; a commitment to the Purpose (Article II), and Statement of Faith (Article III) of this church; submission to the discipline procedures of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada; and such further qualifications as may be specified in the bylaws.

#### Section 2: Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of that spiritual authority which the Lord Jesus has given to His Church. The purposes of discipline are to maintain the honour of the Redeemer, the purity of the Church, the spiritual benefit of the members and the restoration of the offender. The discipline of a member shall be the responsibility of the Board or its designates, and shall be in accordance with the Discipline and Restoration Policy for Members of Local Churches adopted by The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. It shall be a condition of membership that persons accept and comply with the Discipline and Restoration Policy for Members of Local Churches.