

WHO WE ARE

ROCKCLIFFE

Pentecostal Church



Owen Sound, Ontario

“We are Better Together”

Mission Statement

Restore, Relate, Release

Vision Statement

“We are a people committed to Jesus Christ,
to consistent Christian growth, to unity within the Body;
and to loving, living and declaring Christ and His Word,
through the power of the Holy Spirit, in our world.”

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INTRODUCTION

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR PHIL

As your Lead Pastor, I'd like to let you know how happy I am that you are considering a greater involvement at Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church (RPC) which may lead you to becoming a member. Making the commitment to be "part of the family" will be a mutually beneficial experience! As you have been attending worship services and getting acquainted, you have no doubt witnessed the fact that God is blessing us. We believe this is a result of our sincere attempt to be a God-honouring Church and that we are meeting the needs of His people.

Membership has no relationship to being a member of the kingdom of God. Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church membership is about being willing to commit to our Local Church body in a formal partnership, and work toward the stated purpose, mission and goals.

Becoming a member of our congregation is not a Church ritual. We encourage membership as a demonstration of a commitment to a relationship with others in the ministry of our Church and for the blessing derived from being involved in service together. Membership enables you to be active in the selection of leaders and major decisions of our Church. As a member, you are also covered by our insurance policy for our volunteers, in case of liability or injury. All of our Key leadership positions require membership as a pre-requisite.

Our core operating principle is that the message always stays the same, but the method changes regularly. Too often in Churches, the message changes and methods remain the immovable, but here at Rockcliffe we endeavor to constantly reinvent ourselves to bring the unchanging, life-giving message of the gospel to the pain of the world we live in.

Why do we want you to be an "active" member? We believe people grow best when they're serving God in relationship with other believers! Serving God in the Church is a positive and rewarding experience. I have seen hundreds of people grow and bloom into the person God intended them to be through service in the congregation. It enhances personal and spiritual growth when we serve each other "*as unto the Lord*". Remember, no one is perfect, we are just joining together in the journey here at Rockcliffe to reflect Christ and advance His Kingdom in greater ways.

I, along with the entire leadership team, desire to serve you, too! My prayer is that as you join hands with the body of Christ at Rockcliffe and as you allow the Word of God to speak to your heart, we will together be transformed into the image of Christ Himself.

It is an honour to be your Pastor!

In His Service,

Rev. Philip A. Smith

IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SCRIPTURAL?

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

The word “*Church*” is translated from the Greek word “*ecclesia*” in the New Testament and literally means “a Church of called out ones”. This term is applied to:

- a) The Universal Church, which is the whole body of believers on earth (*Colossians 1:18*). A person enters that fellowship through the new birth. It is the Lord who adds to that Church. *Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 12:13* – “for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles.” This is the one true Church composed of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) The Whole Body of Believers in One City. Then tidings came unto the ears of the Church, which is in Jerusalem. (*Acts 11:22*)
- c) The Local Church or Congregation. While there is a Church universal, the Bible also recognizes the existence of local Churches or groups of Churches. “Likewise greet the Church that is in their home.” (*Romans 16:5*) These Churches were capable of making decisions, sending out workers, raising funds, encouraging the fellowship, and appointing leadership.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY LOCAL CHURCH?

The local Church then is a smaller fellowship of believers of “*like precious faith*” within a community who gather together regularly for worship, teaching, and fellowship. Rockcliffe is an example of this.

When the Apostle Paul was converted, he was quick to endeavour to align himself with the believers, first at Damascus (*Acts 9:18 – 19*) then at Jerusalem upon his arrival there. “He assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him and believed not that he was a disciple.” (*Acts 9:26*) Paul’s effort to join himself with other believers was the natural consequence of his conversion.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH?

Its purpose is to proclaim and demonstrate the kingdom of God and the message of Christ’s gospel. The members are to be examples of the power of the gospel. They are to shine as lights in a dark world. They are to show forth “*the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvelous light*” (*1 Peter 2:9*) The local Church should maintain a balance of teaching, worship, fellowship and service. The latter is to fulfill its mission to “*make disciples*” and to obey Christ’s command as expressed in the Great Commission (*Matthew 28:19*). For God dwells in the unity of His children. (*Psalms 133:1-3*)

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PASTOR IN A LOCAL CHURCH?

The local Church is thus a group of believers with at least one elder (*pastor, overseer, shepherd*) appointed to give leadership. The Pastor should first of all be called of God to his ministry, and secondly, should be recognized or “*set apart*” by other ministering brethren into the office of Pastor. “*The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.*” (*Titus 1:5*)

The role of the Pastor is like that of a shepherd – to feed, care for, and protect his flock. His position is ordained by God, and it should therefore be respected by the congregation. “*Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they must give account.*” (*Hebrews 13:7*) A Pastor, being human, at times may make mistakes – for these he is accountable to God, the membership and the Western Ontario District of the P.A.O.C., but his position in the Church should still be recognized and respected.

SHOULD A CHRISTIAN BECOME A MEMBER OF A LOCAL CHURCH

Some people fear Church membership because they do not understand it; others may feel that Church membership provides an automatic eventual admission to heaven. To the first group, Church membership is not bondage to be feared, but a commitment to serve, a bond of Christian fellowship and love. To the second group, membership in a local Church is not the means of joining THE true Church; it has nothing to do with one’s salvation. The new birth should always precede one’s application for joining a local Church. A person does not have to have membership to be saved but needs to be saved to have membership.

The principle advantages of membership in a local Church are as follows:

i) It gives the members a sense of belonging and provides a closer tie of commitment.

It should be a greater catalyst to wholesome unity and love among believers (*1 John 4:11 – 12*)

ii) It provides for order in the local Church, to properly conduct its business, and to protect itself in its various involvements, whether they be legal or otherwise. (*Romans 12:17*)

iii) It enables the local Church to set forth standards and goals to which its members will be challenged to aspire and grow from glory to glory (*2 Cor. 3:18*).

iv) It encourages a greater sense of stewardship. One is more likely to give time, talent and resources to something to which one is committed.

v) It provides an opportunity for public confession of one's faith. This is not the only way to bear witness, but it is an effective means by which one can testify. We take our stand alongside others of similar beliefs in a local congregation (*Hebrews 10:25*).

vi) It gives greater opportunity for dedication to a task. The task is, of course, to make Christ known, to take or send His gospel wherever possible. It is an endless one and is beyond the ability of a single individual. A co-operative effort is so much more effective – where each person is given a small part in a great program. When Christians are dedicated to one common task and pool their efforts together, faithfully contributing according to their talents and gifts, then a much greater impact is made on the community. *"We are Better Together"*

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS?

Membership in the local Church is not automatic through attendance. It must be applied for, but the procedure is simple. Persons desiring to become members of this church shall:

A. Give evidence of genuine experience of renewal, professing the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior. (*John 1:1, 13; 3:3 – 8; 1 Peter 1:18 – 25*)

B. Give credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. They shall give evidence of compliance with the Biblical standard of Christian practice and manifest spiritual growth by giving evidence of the fruit of the Spirit: *"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."* (*Galatians 5:22 – 23*)

C. Refrain from *"acts of the sinful nature: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy, drunkenness, orgies, and the like"* (*Galatians 5:19 – 21*)

Sexual immorality shall be interpreted to mean: common-law marital relationships, pre-marital and extra-marital sexual relationships (*1 Corinthians 6:15 – 18; 7:1 – 2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3 – 8; Hebrews 13:4*), and all forms of homosexual and lesbian activity, along with other practices deemed inexcusable for Christian conduct. (*Romans 1:26 – 2:11*).

D. Indicate a desire to live in harmony with this body of believers and shall refrain from teaching opposite to our doctrinal standards as set forth in the "Statement of Fundamental & Essential Truths".

E. Be regular attendees at the services of this Church and regular financial supporters for at least six (6) months and faithfully thereafter.

F. Seek to do all they can to promote unity and growth in the Church, being open to receive guidance from the preached Word, the general direction of the Pastor(s), elected Board, the Church By-Laws and Church Policies.

From our Constitution MEMBERSHIP CONDITIONS

- 2.01**
- Members shall be at least 18 years of age;
 - Members shall give credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour; and
 - Members shall indicate a desire to live in harmony with this body of believers, shall be in regular attendance for six (6) months prior and thereafter, shall agree not to teach opposite to the doctrinal standards as set forth in the Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths, support the Church by serving with their gifts and talents and shall be a regular financial supporter with their tithe to this Church.

** Where the spiritual conditions are met but the other requirements can not be fulfilled [Honourary Membership](#) can be given, in which the individual will enjoy the benefits of the covering of membership but will not be able to vote.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF ROCKCLIFFE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH?

1. Carefully read the information and instructions contained in this booklet.
2. Attend a membership class. (or meet with the Lead Pastor)
3. Complete the 'Membership Covenant' application form.
4. If you have been a member in good standing with another Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Church, a transfer can be arranged as you:
 - i. Present a valid transfer of membership letter (call your last Lead Pastor / board for a transfer letter)
 - ii. Complete the 'Membership Covenant' application form for this Church
 - iii. Submit to this Church's membership process
5. Subsequent to either transfer or approval, you will be publicly received into the fellowship of the Church and be granted a 'Membership Covenant' Card.

It's ok not to be ok, it's just not ok to stay that way, because God has so much more in store for you. Remember, "Iron Sharpens Iron" (*Prov. 27:17*), God intended for us to be close enough to help each other grow. So, becoming a member simply says that we are open to joining the leadership and Church body on the journey here at Rockcliffe to reflect Christ and advance His Kingdom in greater ways. What if you are one step away from saying, "These are my people"?

WHAT ARE THE BASIC BELIEFS OF ROCKCLIFFE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH?

WE BELIEVE . . .

- In the Bible as the inspired and infallible Word of God. (*2 Timothy 3:15 - 16*)
- In one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:29*)
- In the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, His vicarious: atoning death, bodily resurrection and ascension. (*Isaiah 7:14; Romans 8:34; Acts 1:10*)
- In salvation by faith alone, through the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross and is offered to all. (*1 John 5:10; Romans 10:13 - 15*)
- In baptism by immersion. (*Matthew 28:19*)
- In divine healing through the redemptive work of Christ on the cross. (*Isaiah 53:4; Matthew 8:16 - 17; James 5:13 - 14*)
- In the baptism with the Holy Spirit which is a work of grace and distinct from salvation, with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues, that Christ offers to all who believe. (*Acts 2:4; 10:44 - 46; 19:6*)
- In the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit which enables a believer to live a holy life. (*Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15 - 16*)
- In the second coming of Jesus Christ, which may occur at any moment. (*Acts 24:15; Luke 14:14; Revelation 19:7 - 9*)
- That God is calling people to dedicate themselves to the fulfillment of the Great Commission in these last days. (*Matthew 28:16-20*)

OUR VISION STATEMENT

"We are a people, committed to Jesus Christ, to consistent Christian growth, to unity within the Body; and to loving, living and declaring Christ and His Word, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in our world."

WHAT IS THE LARGER ORGANIZATION WITH WHICH ROCKCLIFFE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH IS AFFILIATED?

Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church is part of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (P.A.O.C.). The P.A.O.C. was formed as a result of a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of this century. Rockcliffe's clear goals are to preserve purity of mission, purity of doctrine, and purity of ministry.

The P.A.O.C. recognizes that Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church is committed to the spreading of the gospel to the whole world. The Body of Believers that make up Rockcliffe, purpose to participate in the threefold ministry of the Church: **Ministry of reconciliation (RESTORE)**, **Ministry to the Lord and the Body of Christ (RELATE)** and **Ministry to the world in reaching the lost (RELEASE)**.

OUR AFFILIATION – THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA

- The PAOC was incorporated by Dominion Charter in May 1919 with less than 25 affiliated Churches.
- In 2015, Churches, Church Plants and Satellites totaled 1,191 and stretched from Halifax to Victoria. In addition, there are more than 150 Churches organized as the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland, a sister organization in full co-operation with our own. The PAOC is divided into seven regional conferences. The one, which Rockcliffe belongs to, is the Western Ontario District with its office at 3214 South Service Rd. in Burlington. The national office and headquarters is located in Mississauga.
- There are more than 3,600 credential holders in the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Five Bible Colleges are maintained in Canada for the training of ministers and other Christian workers.
- The PAOC has always emphasized overseas missionary work and at present, carries on work in Angola, Botswana, Brazil, Central and Latin America, Colombia, Estonia, Ethiopia, Greece, Guinea, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Macau, Malawi, Mozambique, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, West Indies, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The number of appointed or affiliated missionaries is now in excess of 250. There are more than 5,200 overseas Churches and over 200 schools. Our overseas work also includes about 10 Bible Schools and two large printing establishments. There are over 250 missionaries sent out.
- There are several affiliated language, ethnic and cultural groups doing passionate work in Canada. These include French, First Nations, German, Slavic, Finnish, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Tamil, Filipino, Ethiopian, Arabic, Spanish and Deaf. In fact, on any given Sunday, PAOC congregations worship and minister in more than 25 different languages.
- Some of the social and spiritual programs conducted in Canada by the PAOC include Northland and Sub-Arctic Missions, HH Williams Hospital in Hay River, Gospel Boat Missions, Bethel Home for troubled girls, and Teen Challenge Ministry.
- To better serve our Churches and people, the PAOC has organized various departments, each with a particular ministry. Some of them are:
 - Sunday Schools – over 850 Sunday Schools exist with more than 90,000 in regular attendance.
 - Women's Ministries with over 1,000 organized and very active groups.
 - Mature Adults (*formerly Seniors*) Ministries ministering to ages 50 and over.
 - Men's Ministries department, which is devoted to helping men find a place of service in the local Church program.
 - Youth Groups geared to teenagers with dynamic, vibrant youth leaders.
- The "Pentecostal Testimony" is our official magazine published regularly with a circulation of over 6,000.
- The Missions Department of the PAOC provides opportunities for the young and the old to serve. Volunteers in Mission (*VIM*) is a program where single young people can give a year of their lives in missions. Task force provides opportunity for Pentecostal people to use their talents both in Canada and around the world
- The total world missionary giving received through our National Office is over \$16,000,000 annually.



ROCKCLIFFE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH's Vision Statement

WE ARE A PEOPLE - expresses our intense sense of community that comes from our individual faith in Christ, His death and resurrection. We function as the family of God and the body of Christ in our relationship with and care for one another.

(*1 Cor. 12:25 – 27; 1 Peter 2:9 – 10; John 1:12 – 13*)

COMMITTED TO JESUS CHRIST - firmly identifies where our allegiance lies. Believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, we are submitted to His Lordship through personal surrender and obedience to His will.

(*Rom. 10:9 – 10; Matt 16:24 – 25; John 14:15, 21; Matt 16:16 – 17*)

TO CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN GROWTH - indicates that our commitment to Jesus Christ is not static. Our spiritual growth as Christians involves the disciplines of daily bible reading, prayer and obedience. This results in strengthening our personal relationship with Jesus Christ and prepares us for finding our place of effective ministry.

(*John 15:7; Luke 18:1; John 8:31; Eph. 4:12 – 13; 2:20 – 21; James 1:2-4*)

TO UNITY WITHIN THE BODY - unity is our goal, not uniformity but the sense that we are all different and have laid down our ways and thoughts for Christ's ways and thoughts. That together we are one body, made up of different parts.

(*1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:3; 14-16; John 17:20-23; Ps. 133:1; Rom. 12:4-8*)

AND TO LOVING - our greatest commandment is, 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' How do we love? What does it look like? In **1 Corinthians 13** we are given the true picture of love.

(*Matthew 22:37 – 39; John 15:9 – 13; 1 Cor. 13; Rom. 12:9-10*)

LIVING AND DECLARING CHRIST AND HIS WORD - shifts our focus outside of ourselves to the mission of Christ. With Christ's compassion for needy souls, we embrace our responsibility to take His message into the world. We must share our faith in Christ through word and deed by Spirit-controlled lives.

(*Matt 5:13 – 16; Titus 2:11 – 14; 2 Cor. 3:3; Matt 28:19 – 20*)

THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - emphasizes the importance of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The source of our living does not come from human ability alone but by divine enablement. We rely on the Spirit to guide us into truth, to provide strength for daily living and to empower us for personal witness.

(*1 Thess. 5:19; Acts 1:8; John 16:13 – 14; Zech. 4:6; John 14:26; Ex. 33:15-16; Acts 2:4*)

IN OUR WORLD - establishes the setting for our mission which includes the personal world of our families, vocations, and social relationships. Believing Jesus Christ died for all people of all nations, we have a personal challenge to live out His mission wherever we find ourselves.

(*John 3:16 – 17; John 4:35 – 36; Heb. 13:2-3; Luke 10:2*)

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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ROCKCLIFFE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH's Mission Statement

Life is too hard on our own and that's why we believe ***"We are Better Together"***

Restore: we make the difference by bringing a sense of beginning. We are a people who are in the process of finding out who we are in Christ, by the guidance and revelation of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. The ministry of reconciliation is all about restoring relationships into their proper position with God and each other. It's ok not to be ok but it's not ok to stay that way, because God has so much more for you. That's why we want to help restore every person (*Body, Mind, Soul and Spirit*) into the freedom and joy of the new life found in Christ. (*Is. 61; Rom. 5:11; 2 Cor. 5:18; 1 Cor. 5:20; 1 Cor. 6:20; Gal. 5:1; 2 Cor. 5:17; John 8:36; Rom. 15:13*)

Relate: we make a difference by bringing a sense of belonging. In *1 Cor. 12* it tells us that *"we are many parts but make up one body"*, that **'All are important, All have their place here in Rockcliffe'**. It doesn't matter your age, gender or colour, for we are all family in Christ (*Gal. 3:28*). We must relate first with God, second with our own family and third with our Church – the body of Christ. *One purpose, one heart, One God.* **How?** Through fellowshiping, praying together, reaching the lost together, worshipping together, growing together, serving together and through the hearing of God's Word together. In short, we celebrate each other and build the kingdom of God together. We are Better Together. (*Eph. 4:3-6; 14-16; Rom. 8:15; John 17:20-26; Ps. 133:1; Rom. 12:4-8*)

Release: we make a difference by bringing a sense of becoming. We are marked and set apart by God to do His work on this earth, of which we cannot accomplish a thing without the Holy Spirit. *Zech. 4:6* *"Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty"*. The Word states *"a spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other"* (*1 Cor. 12:7*), that everyone has a gift to release. Our heart is to release hope-filled people into their God-given purpose. Jesus said in *John 14:12-14* that we will do what He did and even greater things (*healing the sick, raising the dead*) than He did. That's why we are excited about God and the good things He's doing on the earth, and love that we get to be part of it. (*1 Thess. 5:19; Acts 1:8; John 16:13 – 14; Zech. 4:6; John 14:26; Ex. 33:15-16; Acts 2:4*)

Our goal, with the Holy Spirit's help, is to **RESTORE** that which is broken,
to deliberately and purposefully help *Individuals* **RELATE**
to God and with His body and to **RELEASE** hope-filled people
into their God-given purpose.
(Here in Owen Sound and around the World)

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
RESTORE, RELATE, RELEASE

We Are Better Together

CORE VALUES OF ROCKCLIFFE



We BELIEVE... we are all called to "GO" into the highways and byways and compel all those around us to come into relationship with Christ, for we are His ambassadors. Freely we have received, so freely we need to give our salvation, grace and love away in order to fulfill our Father's will, that no one would perish but all will have everlasting life. (*Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 14:23; 2 Cor. 5:20; Matt. 10:8; John 3:16*)



We BELIEVE... wherever you are in life, whatever is going on, you will always have a next step to take as you grow. This happens with the Holy Spirit's help when we do life together, for iron sharpens iron. When following Jesus seems hard, we can keep moving forward because every step that He calls us to take leads us closer to Him. Don't look back. Keep moving forward, one step at a time. (*2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 13:8; Pro.27:17; Phil. 3:13-14*)



We BELIEVE... everyone needs to find their place to serve as we best reflect Christ when we position our hearts to put others first. For Christ did not come into this world to be served, but to serve. So, we grow best when we rub shoulders with the people God has place beside us and when we use the God given gifts He has given us. (*Matt. 22:28; Phil. 2:2-4; Eph 4:1-3; 1 Peter 4:10*)



We BELIEVE... we were saved to outrageously give our time, talents, energy and money to furthering His Kingdom. The Bible says in *Matt. 6:24* that the top competitor for our commitment to Jesus is money. Tithing (10%) allows us to demonstrate that He is more important to us than material things. For it is always more fulfilling to give than receive. (*Acts 20:35; Mal. 3:10-12; Mark 12:41-44; Matt. 23:23*)



We BELIEVE... life is way too hard to do on our own, that's why we endeavour to share life together, all the more in the days we live. When we get together, we always try and have fun, remembering we are all in this together and that the joy of the Lord is our strength. One body, many parts - it's in our unity and love around Christ, in the midst of our differences, that we show the world that Christ is truly alive. (*1 Cor. 12:27; Heb. 10:25; Gal. 5:7-8; Neh. 8:10; Ecc. 4:10; John 13:35*)

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

Article 5 of the *General Constitution and By-Laws* Amended by General Conference, 2014

ARTICLE 5 STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

PREAMBLE

The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada stands firmly in the mainstream of historical Christianity. It takes the Bible as its all-sufficient source of faith and practice and subscribes to the historic creeds of the universal church. In common with historical, evangelical Christianity, it emphasizes Christ as Saviour and coming King. It also presents Christ as Healer, and it adopts the distinctive position that speaking in tongues is the initial evidence when Christ baptizes in the Holy Spirit. (See Article 5.6.3)

5.1 HOLY SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God¹ by which we understand the whole Bible to be inspired in the sense that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of Scripture.² Divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the original writings. The whole Bible in the original is, therefore, without error and, as such, is infallible, absolutely supreme and sufficient in authority in all matters of faith and practice.³

The Bible does not simply contain the Word of God, but is, in reality, the complete revelation and very Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. Christian believers today receive spiritual illumination to enable them to understand the Scriptures,⁴ but God does not grant new revelations that are contrary or additional to inspired biblical truth.⁵

5.2 THE GODHEAD

The Godhead exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature and attributes and are worthy of the same homage, confidence, and obedience.⁶

5.2.1 THE FATHER

The Father exists eternally as the Creator of heaven and earth, the Giver of the Law, to whom all things will be subjected, so that He may be all in all.⁷

5.2.2 THE SON

The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of the Father, is true God and true man.⁸ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,⁹ and by His sinless life, miracles and teaching, gave full revelation of the Father.¹⁰

He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitution sacrifice.¹¹ He rose from the dead.¹² He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest.¹³ He will come again to establish His kingdom in righteousness and peace.¹⁴

¹ 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17

² 2 Pet. 1: 20,21

³ Psa. 119:160; Matt. 5:17,18

⁴ 1 Cor. 2:12-14

⁵ Prov. 30:5,6

⁶ Matt. 3:16,17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14

⁷ Gen. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:28

⁸ John 1:1,14; 10:30,17; Phil. 2:6,7; Heb. 1:8

⁹ Luke 1:26-35

¹⁰ John 12:49; Acts 2:22; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26

¹¹ Rom. 5:6,8; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1Pet. 3:18

¹² Matt. 28:6; 1 Cor. 15:4,20

¹³ Acts 1:9-11; 2:33; Heb. 8:1

¹⁴ Matt. 25:31

5.2.3 THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is also God, performing actions and possessing the attributes of the Deity.¹⁵ His personality is shown by the fact that He has personal characteristics and that individuals may relate to Him as a person.¹⁶

5.3 ANGELS

5.3.1 CLASSIFICATION

Angels were created as intelligent and powerful beings to do the will of God and worship Him.¹⁷ However, Satan, the originator of sin, fell through pride and was followed by those angels who rebelled against God. These fallen angels or demons are active in opposing the purposes of God.¹⁸ Those who remained faithful continue before the throne of God and serve as ministering spirits.¹⁹

5.3.2 THE BELIEVER AND DEMONS

Demons attempt to thwart God's purposes; however, in Christ, the believer may have complete liberty from the influence of demons.²⁰

The believer cannot be possessed by them because the believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit in which Christ dwells as Lord.²¹

5.4 HUMANITY

Humans were originally created in the image and likeness of God.²² They fell through sin and, as a consequence, incurred both spiritual and physical death.²³ Spiritual death and the depravity of human nature have been transmitted to the entire human race²⁴ with the exception of the Man Christ Jesus.²⁵ Humans can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.²⁶

5.5 SALVATION

5.5.1 ATONEMENT OF CHRIST

Salvation has been provided for all people through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.²⁷

It is the only perfect redemption and substitution atonement for all the sins of the world, both original and actual. His atoning work has been proven by His resurrection from the dead.²⁸

Those who repent and believe in Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and receive eternal life.²⁹

Furthermore, in the atonement, divine healing was provided for all believers.³⁰

5.5.2 REPENTANCE AND FAITH

A person can be born again only through faith in Christ. Repentance, a vital part of believing, is a complete change of mind wrought by the Holy Spirit,³¹ turning a person to God from sin.

5.5.3 REGENERATION

Regeneration is a creative work of the Holy Spirit by which a person is born again and receives spiritual life.³²

5.5.4 JUSTIFICATION

Justification is a judicial act of God by which the sinner is declared righteous solely on the basis of their acceptance of Christ as Saviour.³³

¹⁵ Acts 5:3,4

¹⁶ John 16:13-14

¹⁷ Psa. 103:20; Rev. 5:11,12

¹⁸ Isa. 14:12-17, Eze. 28:11-19; Eph. 6:11-12; 1Tim. 4:1; Jude 6

¹⁹ Heb. 1:14

²⁰ Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8; 4:1-4

²¹ Matt. 6:24; 1 Cor. 6:19,20

²² Gen. 1:26; 2:7

²³ Rom. 5:12; James 1:14,15

²⁴ Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-19, 23

²⁵ Heb. 7:26

²⁶ John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5,6

²⁷ Isa. 53:3-6; John 12:32,33; 1 Pet. 2:24

²⁸ Acts 2:36; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:14,17,20; Heb. 10:12; 1 John 2:2

²⁹ Acts 20:21; 1 Pet. 1:23,25

³⁰ Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:16b,17

³¹ Isa. 55:7; Acts 17:30; Gal. 3:22,26; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 5:10-13

³² John 3:3b,5b,7; 2 Cor. 5:17,18a; 1 Pet. 1:23

³³ Rom. 3:24; 4:3-5; 5:1-2

5.6 THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

5.6.1 ASSURANCE

Assurance of salvation is the privilege of all who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ, ³⁴ resulting in love, gratitude and obedience toward God.

5.6.2 SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is dedication to God and separation from evil. ³⁵ In experience it is both instantaneous ³⁶ and progressive. ³⁷ It is produced in the life of the believer by the appropriation of the power of Christ's blood and risen life through the person of the Holy Spirit;³⁸ He draws the believer's attention to Christ, teaches them through the Word and produces the character of Christ within them. ³⁹ Believers who sin must repent and seek forgiveness through faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. ⁴⁰

5.6.3 BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience in which believers yield control of themselves to the Holy Spirit. ⁴¹ Through this the believer comes to know Christ in a more intimate way ⁴² and receives power to witness and grow spiritually. ⁴³ Believers should earnestly seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴⁴ The initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. ⁴⁵ This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. ⁴⁶

5.6.4 THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural abilities given by God through the exercising of which believers are enabled to minister effectively and directly in particular situations. ⁴⁷ They serve the dual function of building up the church and of demonstrating the presence of God within His church. ⁴⁸

5.6.5 DIVINE HEALING

Divine healing provided in the atonement of Christ ⁴⁹ is the privilege of all believers. Prayer for the sick and gifts of healing are encouraged and practiced. ⁵⁰

5.7 THE CHURCH

5.7.1 THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

All who are born again are members of the universal church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ.⁵¹

5.7.2 THE LOCAL CHURCH

5.7.2.1 PURPOSE

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who have joined together to function as a part of the universal church. ⁵² The local church is ordained by God and provides a context in which

³⁴ John 10:27-29; Rom. 8:35-39

³⁵ 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1

³⁶ John 17:17,19; Heb. 10:10,14

³⁷ I Thes. 5:23; 2 Tim. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 1:14-16

³⁸ Rom. 6:11,13,14,18

³⁹ 1 Cor. 13; Gal. 5:22, 23; 2 Pet. 1:3-4

⁴⁰ 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2

⁴¹ Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:5; Eph. 5:18

⁴² John 16:13-15

⁴³ Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 3:18

⁴⁴ Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8

⁴⁵ Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6

⁴⁶ Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46

⁴⁷ 1 Cor. 12:4-11

⁴⁸ 1 Cor. 12:7; 14:12, 24-25

⁴⁹ Matt. 8:16,17

⁵⁰ 1 Cor. 12:28-30; James 5:14

⁵¹ 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:25b; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:15

⁵² Acts 14:23; 1 Cor. 16:19

believers corporately worship God ⁵³, observe the ordinances of the church, are instructed in the faith and are equipped for the evangelization of the world. ⁵⁴

5.7.2.2 ORDINANCES

5.7.2.2.1 THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a symbol, memorial and proclamation of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. This ordinance of communion is to be participated in by believers until Christ's return. ⁵⁵

5.7.2.2.2 WATER BAPTISM

Water baptism signifies the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and is practiced by immersion. ⁵⁶

5.7.2.3 MINISTRY

A divinely called and ordained ministry is the provision of the Lord to give leadership to the church as it fulfills its purposes. ⁵⁷

5.8 THE END OF TIME

5.8.1 THE PRESENT STATE OF THE DEAD

At death the souls of believers pass immediately into the presence of Christ, ⁵⁸ and these remain in constant bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body. ⁵⁹ The souls of unbelievers remain after death conscious of condemnation ⁶⁰ until the final bodily resurrection and judgment of the unjust. ⁶¹

5.8.2 THE RAPTURE

The rapture, the blessed hope of the church, is the imminent coming of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself His own, both the living who shall be transformed, and the dead in Christ who shall be resurrected. ⁶² This event takes place before the wrath of God is poured out during the tribulation. Believers then will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged according to faithfulness in Christian service. ⁶³

5.8.3 THE TRIBULATION

The tribulation will be a time of judgment on the whole earth. ⁶⁴ During this period the Antichrist will emerge to offer false hope to the nations. ⁶⁵

5.8.4 THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The return of Christ to earth in power and great glory will conclude the great tribulation with the victory at Armageddon, ⁶⁶ the defeat of Antichrist and the binding of Satan. ⁶⁷ Christ will introduce the millennial age, ⁶⁸ restore Israel to her own land, lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, and bring the whole world to the knowledge of God. ⁶⁹

⁵³ John 4:23; Acts 20:7

⁵⁴ Acts 1:8; 11:19-24; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 5:2

⁵⁵ Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-26

⁵⁶ Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5

⁵⁷ Acts 6:2b-4c; 13:2-4a; 14:23; Eph. 4:8, 11-13

⁵⁸ 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21, 23-24

⁵⁹ Rom 8:22-23; 1 Cor. 15:42-44; 2 Cor. 5:1,4b

⁶⁰ Luke 16:22-31; John 3:36

⁶¹ Dan.12:2; John 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev 20:11-15

⁶² 1 Cor. 15:51-57; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13

⁶³ Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:9-10

⁶⁴ Matt. 24:15, 21-22; 1 Thess. 5:1-3

⁶⁵ 2 Thess. 2:3-12; Rev. 13:11-18

⁶⁶ Matt. 24:27, 30; Luke 17:24, 26-30

⁶⁷ Rev. 16:12-16; 17:8, 12-14; 19:11-20

⁶⁸ Psa. 2:6-12; Dan. 2:44-45; Luke 22:29-30; Rev. 3:21; 20:6

⁶⁹ Isa. 1:24-27; 2:1-4; Zech. 14:3,4,9; Rom. 8:19-23; Rev. 22:3

5.8.5 THE FINAL JUDGMENT

There will be a final judgment in which the unbelieving dead will be raised and judged at the great white throne, according to their works. ⁷⁰ The beast and false prophet, the devil and his angels, and whoever is not found in the Book of Life, shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to annihilation but to everlasting punishment, which is the second death. ⁷¹

5.8.6 THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The righteous will share the glory of God in the new heaven and the new earth for eternity. ⁷²

5.9 POSITIONS AND PRACTICES

5.9.1 MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Marriage is a provision of God wherein one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others enter into a lifelong relationship ⁷³ through a marriage ceremony that is recognized by the church and legally sanctioned by the state. Marriage establishes a "one-flesh" relationship ⁷⁴ that goes beyond a physical union and is more than either a temporary relationship of convenience intended to provide personal pleasure or a contract that binds two people together in a legal partnership. Marriage establishes an emotional and spiritual oneness that enables both partners to respond to the spiritual, physical and social needs of the other. ⁷⁵ It provides the biblical context for the procreation of children.

Marriage is to be an exclusive relationship that is maintained in purity. ⁷⁶ It is intended by God to be a permanent relationship. It is a witness to the world of the relationship between Christ and His church. ⁷⁷ Marriage requires a commitment of love, perseverance and faith. Because of its sanctity and permanence, marriage should be treated with seriousness and entered into only after counsel and prayer for God's guidance. Christians should marry only those who are believers. ⁷⁸

An individual who becomes a believer after marriage should remain with his/her partner in peace, and should give witness to the Gospel in the home. ⁷⁹ The Bible holds family life as a position of trust and responsibility. The home is a stabilizing force in society, a place of nurture, counsel, and safety for children. ⁸⁰ Marriage can only be broken by porneia, which is understood as marital unfaithfulness ⁸¹ involving adultery, homosexuality, or incest. While the Scriptures give evidence that the marriage vow and "one-flesh" union are broken by such acts and therefore recognize the breaking of the marriage relationship, the Scriptures do recommend that the most desirable option would be reconciliation. ⁸²

5.9.2 DIVORCE

We believe that divorce is not God's intention. It is God's concession to the "hardness of men's hearts." ⁸³ We, therefore, discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. Our objective is reconciliation and the healing of the marital union wherever possible. Marital unfaithfulness should not be

⁷⁰ Dan. 7:9-10; John 12:48; Rom. 2:2,6,11,16; Rev. 14:9-11; 20:11-15

⁷¹ Matt. 25:41b; Jude 6; Rev. 20:10,15; 21:8

⁷² Matt. 13:43; John 17:24; 2 Pet. 3:13; Heb. 11:10; Rev. 21:1-2, 10, 22-23

⁷³ Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6

⁷⁴ Matt. 19:5; Mal. 2:15

⁷⁵ Gen. 2:18; 1 Cor. 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4

⁷⁶ Eph. 5:3, 26, 27

⁷⁷ Eph. 5:25, 31, 32

⁷⁸ 2 Cor. 6:1, 14, 15

⁷⁹ 1 Cor. 7:12-14, 16

⁸⁰ Eph. 6:4

⁸¹ Matt. 5:32; 19:9

⁸² Eph. 4:32

⁸³ Matt. 19:8

considered so much an occasion or opportunity for divorce but rather an opportunity for Christian grace, forgiveness, and restoration. Divorce in our society is a termination of a marriage through a legal process authorized by the State. While the Church recognizes this legal process as an appropriate means to facilitate the permanent separation of spouses, the Church restricts the idea of divorce, in the sense of dissolution of marriage, to reasons specified in Scripture. The weight of the biblical record is negative, and the explicit statement is made, "God hates divorce."⁸⁴ Divorce is more than an action of the courts which breaks the legal contract between partners in a marriage. It is also the fracture of a unique human relationship between a male and a female. Divorce has profound consequences for the children. Divorce is evidence of the sinful nature expressed in human failure. Jesus gives one explicit cause for the dissolution of marriage: porneia or marital unfaithfulness. Where all attempts at reconciliation have failed and a divorce has been finalized, we extend Christ's love and compassion.

5.9.3 REMARRIAGE

Remarriage is the union, legally sanctioned by the State, of one man and one woman, one or both of whom have been previously married. It is regarded as acceptable in Scripture in the event of the death of a former spouse. It is also regarded as acceptable if there has been sexual immorality on the part of the former partner or if the former partner has remarried.

5.9.4 TITHING

Tithing was divinely instituted by God under the old covenant and was compulsory upon the people who worshiped God.⁸⁵ Under the new covenant we are not bound by arbitrary laws; but the principles of right and wrong, as expressed by the law, are fulfilled in the believer's life through grace. Grace should produce as much as or more than law demanded. Regular systematic giving is clearly taught in the New Testament. It is known as the grace of giving.⁸⁶ The gauge or rule of this systematic giving is defined in the Old Testament, known as the law of tithing. All Christians should conscientiously and systematically tithe their income to God.

⁸⁴ Mal. 2:16

⁸⁵ Lev. 27:30-32; Mal. 3:10

⁸⁶ 2 Cor. 9:6-15

HOW THE CHURCH FINANCES ARE HANDLED

The Board of Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church sets a Church Budget annually which is approved by the members during our Annual Business Meeting, for the operation of the many ministries of the Church. The Board also appoints a Treasurer who sees to it that all funds are cared for in keeping with current government laws and the directions given by the elected Board.

The Church books are reviewed every year by an independent outside source. All the funds given in tithing envelopes, by those who support the Church, are receipted each year with tax deductible receipts. An annual supply of envelopes is available on request for anyone wishing to give regularly to the Church. With so many faithful supporters, the envelope system enables the accounting staff of the Church to handle the individual "giving" records in the simplest way. The Church envelopes have the following listings on them. These are abbreviated definitions of the larger items paid for out of each category:

General Fund (Tithe) Helps with the many ministry programs of the Church, the general operation and maintenance of the Church – salaries for pastors and office staff, grounds maintenance, cleaning, telephone, insurance, office and maintenance supplies, utilities and so much more.

Missions This fund cares for mission projects which the Church is directly involved in. In addition, with the processing of mission funds to approved mission groups who are supported by Church members are held in this account.

Benevolent (Sharing Storehouse) Monies given to this account are used to aid and bless those of our Church and our community, who have hit a bump along the road of life. We have always endeavoured to be God's hand extended, and found through the faithfulness of this fellowship, that hand has never been in lack.

Other This category is used for special designated offerings, guest speakers, special projects or specific departments, as directed by the Board and Lead Pastor.

The faithful, regular support of many friends enables the Church to meet its financial responsibilities on a regular monthly basis. For us as regular givers, it facilitates the fulfilling of the Biblical mandate to "*Bring the tithe into the storehouse*" and to "*tithe*" to the work of God. **Malachi 3:6-12**

Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church

Designated Gifts or Funds

Policy

This policy is for the designation of gifts and funds for “in house” projects and programs where RPC is the acting agent, or an outside party is the acting agent for RPC.

This policy also applies when projects or programs are being carried on outside this charity, but RPC is acting as the agent.

For the purpose of this policy, designated funds will mean funds or gifts specifically designated to a program or project by an individual or group of individuals either as members or non-members of RPC.

Designated gifts may be given either by formal letter from the donor, special offering requests or by the offering envelope system in place at RPC.

Individuals designating gifts or funds need to either receive or see a copy of this policy or be verbally informed of this policy. This policy will accompany all membership packets when distributed for new membership or be distributed to new members upon approval of their membership. Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church's sole Responsibility is to inform donors or designators of this policy. The agreement of the donor or designator to this policy is immaterial.

All appeals for gifts or funds for special programs or projects must be accompanied by a written or verbal announcement of this policy.

Individuals counting monies given to the Church are required to have a membership list available so that when designated gifts or funds are received by non-members, the main office can be notified so that a copy of this policy may be issued to the designator or the designator be informed verbally of this policy, before the funds are deposited.

THE POLICY

It is the heart of the RPC Board and the desire of the designated gift policy is that all gifts and funds designated will be used for the specific project or program until that project or program is completed, cannot be completed or other projects or programs take precedent. In all cases the Board of RPC reserves the right to direct designated gifts or funds at its' discretion.

Where funds are designated to projects or programs with no appeal made, they will also fall under the requirements of this policy. The funds will not be deposited into our account until proper communication has been made and a RPC Board decision has been made regarding the designation.

Approved January 19th, 2017
Revised March 22nd, 2018

ROCKCLIFFE

Pentecostal Church

Leadership Structure Flow Chart



This model of leadership structure is to help us stay focused and positioned to empower people to be Kingdom players by finding their place to minister here in Rockcliffe and surrounding areas.

THE LEADERSHIP ROLES OF Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church

A Board Approved Document January 19th, 2017

“Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church is a Board protected and Staff directed congregation.”

The Board are chosen with a prayer ballot by the members of *Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church* and serve according to the requirements of *RPC's By-Laws*. The Board **carries the ultimate responsibility and authority** for the finances, to see that the Church remains on a true course biblically, that its members are being appropriately shepherded, that the body is being fed through insightful and accurate teaching of the Word, that all aspects of the life of the Church are being well managed with the assistance of other competent and godly leaders, and that the mission and core values are being both honoured and implemented. **They guard** the Church against harmful influences, confronting those who contradict biblical truth or continue in patterns of sinful behavior. **They shepherd** the Church by being examples and role models. **They encourage, evaluate and consult** with key staff and members. **They care** about the spiritual and physical well being of members by regularly praying for the sick and those in need. Unless otherwise directed, the Lead Pastor serves as the “spokesperson” for the Board. The Board serves the Lead Pastor and are accountable to the members of *Rockcliffe*, adhering to the guidelines required to remain in fellowship with the *Western Ontario District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada*.

The Lead Pastor is primarily responsible to be a **teacher of the Word of God** and to **provide strategic leadership and mission** to the Church. His role is to help grow and mature believers through insightful and accurate presentations of biblical truth, equipping them to be true “ministers” in the body of Christ. He must strive to teach and lead by example, and he must stress both the understanding and application of God’s truth. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he endeavors to **discern God’s program** for us as a Church regarding the day to day ministries and activities. Whenever a plan is implemented, one eye is to be kept on our effectiveness and the other eye on the next step God seems to be showing us. He shall be ex officio, a member of all committees and departments connected to the Churches ministries. The Lead Pastor is **to embody the vision and core values of Rockcliffe** and is accountable to the members of *Rockcliffe* via the Board and the *Western Ontario District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada*.

The Staff and Support Pastors: refers to paid employees, and functions under the direct supervision of the Lead Pastor, and the general oversight and watchful care of the Board. They **direct the day to day affairs of the sub ministries** of the Church, in accordance with the mission and values of *Rockcliffe*. They are paid so that they can devote the best hours of their day to building ministries. The staff supports the strategies and priorities as determined by the Lead Pastor. It is the job of the staff to **build and coordinate teams of volunteers** so that ministry can happen.

Those who serve you

The Role Of The Board Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church Owen Sound, Ontario

The organizational structure of the New Testament Church is not clearly defined. There are many words used to describe various roles. There are *elders, bishops, overseers, deacons, pastors, teachers, evangelists, apostles* and *prophets*, to name only a few. Some of the terms seem to be used interchangeably. The point is *not* that we use the *exact same* terminology as the first century Christians. The point is that we seek to follow the same pattern of *God-ordained leadership*. The creation of the role of the Board can be found in **Acts 6:1-7**. The role was created out of a need to free the Apostles from their administrative burden.

Our *Church By-Laws* reflect our understanding concerning the blending of these roles of *Pastor* and *Board*. These chief leadership roles are described in the following manner:

“The Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the Church and shall, with the Board, direct all of its activities... He shall preside at all meetings of the board of directors and of the members. He shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees and departments connected to the Churches ministries.”
(By-Law VIII,8.02,A)

“The Church Board is chosen to serve the Church and therefore shall act in an administrative capacity with the Pastor in matters pertaining to the Church, its spiritual life and financial affairs...” (By-Law V,5.01)

This document then goes on to outline what is involved in the *“matters pertaining to the congregation and its spiritual life and financial affairs...”* Practically speaking, this mandate is achieved by the successful completion of the following tasks:

1. The Board functions as *spiritual advisors*, assisting the Pastors in the successful stewardship of their personal and professional lives.
2. The Board functions as *financial advisors*, combining their personal skills and abilities in the wise and visionary stewardship of the Church’s financial resources, including the remuneration of staff.
3. The Board functions as *ministry assistants* (*when called upon*) in the ministering of Church ordinances, functioning as servants and vessels of God’s grace and power.
4. The Board functions as *attentive guardians* of the integrity of the body, examining applications for membership and participating in the administration of the discipline of members.
5. The Board functions as *objective facilitators* of efficient and effective ministry, working with the Pastor in the determination of staffing and ministry requirements and in making selections and appointments.

In a nutshell, the **Lead Pastor** is to be responsible for the supervision and direction of all pastors and staff, and for the day to day activities of the Church. The responsibility of the **Board** is to ensure that the Church building, contents, and environment promote the Church’s mission and objectives, and that the Church remains on a true course biblically. It is the role of the **Board** to ensure that the **Pastoral Team and Staff** have a healthy work environment.

Q: HOW ARE THESE RESPONSIBILITIES PRACTICALLY CARRIED OUT?

Many Boards are only Board members in the Board Room. This is not biblical. The Board Room is simply the place where the Board members gather to pray, assess the state of the Church, and strategize toward a better future. The Board Room should be the place where its members function as visionaries – looking at the “big picture” with the Lead Pastor and seeing what must be done to position the congregation for God’s best.

A Board’s role is not fulfilled entirely in the Board Room, however. The real work is done *between* meetings. It is a *lifestyle*. It is an *attitude of servant hood*. It is the *sharing of the burden of leadership*.

Basically, the Board has a leadership responsibility in four areas. Below these areas are listed, along with the practical steps that must be taken in order for a Board to fulfill its responsibilities. As a Board:

- You have a ***personal responsibility*** that is, ministering to Church leaders and workers in their personal lives. This will be carried out by regularly praying with, talking with, visiting with, and expressing personal interest in, the leaders, their families and workers of the congregation.
- You have a ***financial responsibility*** that is, overseeing the monetary resources of the Church. This will be carried out by your personal stewardship example; by participating in setting the financial goals and priorities of the congregation; by participating in the monthly review of the financial picture of the Church, making adjustments when necessary.
- You have an ***administrative responsibility*** that is, ensuring that the Church organizational structure is adequate, efficient, and effective. This will be carried out by attending all duly called meetings; by participating in the decisions regarding appropriate staffing and the proper financial remuneration of these positions; by addressing any administrative issues that are brought before the Board; by fulfilling any administrative responsibilities regarding committees or special assignments given you.
- You have a ***spiritual responsibility*** that is, ensuring that the spiritual climate of the Church is reflecting the biblical ideal. This will be carried out by being an example in prayer, Church attendance, and your general faithfulness to the Church; by contacting any members assigned to your care; by participating in any spiritual ministry that is assigned, such as, the serving of communion, laying hands upon the sick, commissioning of ministries, etc...

The apostle Paul teaches in **1 Corinthians 3** that each individual will someday give an account for their lives and be rewarded accordingly. God loves and protects His Church with passion, (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17**). He is pleased with anyone who joins Him in the building of His Church. When accepted with joy and sincerity, the role of a Board is an honorable and rewarding calling, both in this world and most certainly in the world to come.

Needed in Every Church Body

1. **Leaders** - With a variety of administrative expertise.
2. **Workers** - With a variety of skills and professional abilities with availability.
3. **Tools** - A variety of essential equipment.

Ultimately, what is needed is an openness, sensitivity and willingness to partner with Holy Spirit and His gifts, which each and everyone should desire - for **Zech. 4:6** says *"It is not by might, nor by power (or skills and persuasive words) but by My Spirit"* that anything will change here at Rockcliffe and Owen Sound. (**1 Cor. 14:1; Rom. 8:5-8; Matt. 16:17-19; 1 Peter 4:10**)

Administration

Ephesians 4:11-12

Apostles
Prophets
Evangelists
Pastors
Teachers

Operations

Romans 12:6-8

Proclaiming
Serving
Teaching
Exhortation
Giving
Ruling
Showing Mercy

Manifestations

1 Corinthians 12:7-10

Tongues	Utterance
Interpretation	
Prophecy	
Words of Knowledge	Revelation
Words of Wisdom	
Discerning Spirits	
Workings of Healing	Power
Workings of Miracles	
Workings of Faith	

Ephesians 4:1-7

Christ 'apportioned' gifts.

Apportioned:

To divide and distribute in shares according to a plan.

Making Membership Meaningful (Part 1)

"Mission"

The foundational mission of Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church is for those called of God to have an attitude and practice of Restoring, Relating and Releasing!

"Peace be with you! Even as the Father has sent me so I send you." **John 20:21**

FOCUS

It is the hope of our Church family to be a culturally relevant body.

- Our relevance will be attained and maintained through Christ-like character and maturity toward God and our neighbour.
- Our Christ-likeness will be developed through prayer and study of the Bible.

"It has always been my ambition to preach the Gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation." **Romans 15:20**

BURDEN

It is the hope of our Church family to become a fountain of life, sharing Jesus Christ with the world around us. Starting with those in our neighbourhoods, then those in our city, spreading to our country, and finally, the world.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hillside cannot be hidden." **Matt. 5:14**

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you." **Isaiah 60:1-2**

STRATEGY

It is our hope as a Church family to create an atmosphere through:

- Worship, Fellowship & Ministry in Jesus' name, where the beautiful presence of God would be personally experienced by all who would enter through our doors.

"To the weak I become weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some."

1 Corinthians 9:22

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." **Ps. 34:8**

EMPOWERING

It is the hope of our Church family that the powerful Holy Spirit of God will find an openness to move in and through His people, strengthening them in obedience as well as through sacrifices so that mighty demonstrations of the Spirit's power would bring true honour and glory to our exalted King.

"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom but on God's power." **1 Cor. 2:4**

HARVEST

It is the hope of our Church family to see one thousand people come to faith in Christ and be baptized in water and filled with the Holy Spirit in this coming generation.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." **Gal. 6:9**

Making Membership Meaningful (Part 2)

"PLEDGE"

"He whose walk is blameless (is one) who keeps his oath even when it hurts."

Psalm 15:2,4

ROCKCLIFFE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE

Therefore, since I have been made right in God's sight by faith through the power of the Gospel - making Jesus Christ my Savior and Lord, and by confirming this through Water Baptism, and being in agreement not to teach opposite to Rockcliffe's vision, mission and Statement of Faith, I now by God's grace and the leading of the Holy Spirit unite with my Rockcliffe family of believers.

In so doing, I pledge myself wholly to God and to the other members of our body to do the following:

1) I WILL GIVE HONOUR TO CHRIST JESUS BY KEEPING THE UNITY OF SPIRIT IN MY CHURCH.

By acting in love toward all other members without exception.

"We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian friends." **1 John 3:16**

By refusing to gossip or listen to gossip.

"Love does no wrong to anyone, so love satisfies all of God's requirements."

Romans 13:10

"They must not speak evil of anyone, and they must avoid quarrelling."

Titus 3:2

Notes:

By standing with and following leadership.

"Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over souls, and they know they are accountable to God! Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow. That would be no benefit to you!"

Hebrews 13:17

2) I WILL TAKE SERIOUSLY MY RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP MY CHURCH GROW AND IN DOING SO, HELP THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO GROW.

By diligently praying for all people in my Church and in Owen Sound.

"Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

By Inviting the unchurched to attend.

"Go into all the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you can find to come so that the house will be full." **Luke 14:23**

By warmly welcoming those who visit as guest.

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else just as ours does for you."

1 Thess. 3:12

3) I WILL SERVE WILLINGLY AND GROW AS A VESSEL IN DEVOTION TO GOD AND TO MY CHURCH.

By discovering my God-given gifts and talents.

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

By granting those called of God to equip me for works of service.

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." **Eph. 4:11-12**

Notes:

By developing a servant's heart.

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord not men, because you know the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free." **Ephesians 6:7,8**

4) I WILL HELP FACILITATE THE OVERALL MISSION OF MY CHURCH IN GOING INTO THE ENTIRE WORLD.

By regular fellowship with the Body of Christ.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the day approaching." **Hebrews 10:25**

By living a godly life.

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." **1 Timothy 4:8**

By giving faithfully financially .

"Give and it will be given unto you. Pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you." **Luke 6:38**

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." **Malachi 3:10**

Next Steps:

- Baptism
- 'Set Free' Ministry
- Get involved - find a place to serve
- Missions Trips
- Get in touch with your Pastor and Leadership Team
- RightNow Media

"We are BETTER TOGETHER"

Prayer of JABEZ

"Oh, that you would bless us indeed, and enlarge our territory, that your hand would be with us, and that you would keep us from evil." **1 Chron. 4:9-10**

Notes:

Privileges of Membership

You have the privilege to membership with your Church family as often as you desire.

You have the privilege to avail yourself to the prayers of the body on your behalf.

You have the privilege to approach the throne of God corporately in worship with the rest of the body.

You have the privilege to be under the spiritual oversight of Pastors who love and care for you.

You have the privilege of growing, maturing, and being disciplined for ministry.

You have the privilege of discharging your ministry under the direct supervision of the leadership of this great fellowship.

Responsibilities of Membership

You are responsible to rid yourself from any past negative influences with Churches or Leadership which would bias your opinion of this fellowship and its heavenly mandate.

You are responsible to grow in the Membership Covenant you have signed with Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church.

You are responsible to discover your calling and giftings and fulfill your purpose by combining your ministry gifts and talents with the rest of the body to glorify Jesus Christ in our community.

You are responsible to speak blessings toward your fellowship and refrain from murmuring and complaining when you may disagree with some issues or listen to others who do. Please redirect all concerns/people to the appropriate individuals as our hearts should always be toward restoration and resolution of conflict.

*"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.
It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore."*

PSALM 133:1-3

ROCKCLIFFE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Jesus Christ as my Personal Lord and Saviour according to the Scriptures (*John 3:5-6, 5:24; Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 5:11-12*), renounced my former sinful lifestyle (*2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 2:11-12*), I willingly support the leadership, mission and core values of this Church and agreeing that I won't teach anything opposite to Rockcliffe's Statement of Faith and Essential Truths recorded in this membership booklet, I hereby enter into the following Covenant with Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church...

1. I agree to protect the unity of my Church

By acting in love toward other members *1 Peter 1:22*
By refraining from divisive talk or actions *1 Cor 1:10*
By honoring the Leadership God has placed in it *Heb 13:17*

Would you be interested in being involved in a small group? y / n

2. I will share the responsibility of my Church

By praying for its growth *Matt 9:37-38*
By inviting the unchurched to attend *Luke 14:23*
By warmly welcoming those who visit *Romans 15:7 / James 3:17*

Are you actively attending prayer meetings? y / n *Are you actively discipling someone? y / n*

3. I will serve the Ministry of my Church

By the use of my time and talents *Matt 9:37-38*
By striving to perfect my ministry giftings *Eph. 4:11-12*
By developing a servant's heart *Phil 2:3-4*

What areas are you actively serving in today? _____

What areas are you interested in serving in? _____

4. I will support the testimony of my Church

By attending faithfully *Heb 10:25*
By living a Godly life *Phil 1:27*
By way of my tithe and offerings *Mal 3:10 / Matt 23:23 / Luke 6:38*

Are you in regular attendance? y / n *Are you actively tithing to RPC? y / n*

I do agree to adhere to grow in the above responsibilities, thereby identifying myself with the Body of Christ in Rockcliffe Pentecostal Church.

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed

Date of Conversion _____

Baptized in Water? ☐ Yes ☐ No Baptized in Holy Spirit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Names of Children _____

Have you previously been a member in another church? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Where? _____ Is it a PAOC church? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please print

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only

Card Issued: _____

Date received: _____

Date Approved: _____

Signature: _____

Lead Pastor

PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE