

# GATEWAY CHURCH

Arnprior, Ontario

## **BELONGING:**

### A Membership Journey

Participant Guide

<b>MODULE 1</b> Welcome to Gateway	<b>MODULE 2</b> Our Wesleyan Family	<b>MODULE 3</b> What We Believe	<b>MODULE 4</b> Living as Members
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Belonging: A Membership Journey

We are so glad you are here. This guide is your companion through the Gateway Church membership journey: *a journey we are taking together.*

Membership at Gateway is not about signing a form or joining an organization. It is about entering into a family. It is about saying, “*I belong here, and this community belongs to me.*” It is a mutual commitment, we commit to you, and you commit to us, all anchored in our shared commitment to Jesus Christ.

### What Does the Bible Say about Membership?

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#### Acts 2:41–47 [NIV]

<sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

#### 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 [NIV]

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say,

“Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

<sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup>while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

#### **Romans 12:3–8 [NIV]**

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The early church did not treat belonging casually. They were devoted to teaching, to one another, to worship, to prayer. That same spirit of devoted community is what we are inviting you into at Gateway.

## **Biblical Membership Characteristics**

### **Acts 2:41–47**

- Thirst to learn (v. 42)
- Fellowship, camaraderie, and belonging (v. 42)
- Serious about prayer (v. 42)
- They were influential in demonstrating the power of God (v. 43)
- A strong bond and generosity among them (v. 44)
- Sacrificial and servant-hearted (v. 45)
- Faithfully met in the existing temple (church) for worship and fellowship (vv. 46–47)
- Favoured by outsiders (v. 47)
- Reached out to others in witness and welcome (v. 47)

### **Corinthians 12:12–27**

- Like parts of the human body, they each had something to offer the whole. They were learning to contribute and appreciate other members for their contributions.

### **Romans 12:3–8**

- Humility with confidence (v. 3)
- Sense of responsibility for one another (vv. 4–5)
- Each has a “gift” to use in serving Christ; use it energetically (vv. 6–8)

## **The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church (2022)**

The overall objective of membership in The Wesleyan Church is:

- To acknowledge believers as belonging to the body of Christ;
- To disciple them into a meaningful relationship with The Wesleyan Church; and
- To equip them for meaningful ministry in the world.



## Believe • Belong • Become

Membership in The Wesleyan Church is not the finish line; it is the starting gate. It marks the moment a believer, following conversion, steps through the door into a family of believers committed to mutual accountability, spiritual growth, and ministry. The Wesleyan Church understands itself not as a loose collection of independent congregations, but as a connected family, united by identity in Christ and with one another. Membership is the thread that holds that family together, anchoring believers in Scripture, community, and a shared journey toward Christlikeness.

The Wesleyan vision of membership moves through three stages:

- **Believing:** Coming to saving faith in Jesus Christ and beginning to understand how that faith shapes every dimension of life: relationships, lifestyle, and witness.
- **Belonging:** Being received into a local church community where the church takes on the responsibility of discipling each person toward full devotion to Christ.
- **Becoming:** Growing through an intentional discipleship process toward maturity in faith and character, ultimately being raised up for effective leadership and service.

Membership is the doorway into this journey. It is not passive attendance, it is an active, ongoing commitment to be shaped by Christ alongside others who are doing the same.

## About This Course

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This membership course is built around four modules:

- **Module 1:** *Welcome to Gateway Church*
  - Who we are, our story, and why we exist in Arnprior
- **Module 2:** *Our Wesleyan Family*
  - Our denomination's history, theology, and identity
- **Module 3:** *What We Believe*
  - Core doctrines and the Articles of Religion
- **Module 4:** *Living as Members*
  - Membership commitments, rights, and next steps

## Why Does Membership Matter?

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In a culture that values individuality and low commitment, the idea of formal church membership might seem old-fashioned. But the Bible presents a vision of the Church as a body interconnected, interdependent, and mutually accountable. Here are six reasons membership matters:

1. **Identification:** It says, “*I’m in.*” Membership is an official declaration of belonging.
2. **Agreement:** It says, “*I am not alone.*” I agree to a journey to a wider community of believers.
3. **Accountability:** It says, “*I’m accountable.*” I grant others in the church family the right to care for me and challenge me.
4. **Voice:** It says, “*My voice matters.*” Members participate in the decisions that shape the community.
5. **Service:** It says, “*I’m willing to serve.*” Some leadership roles require membership.
6. **Witness:** It says, “*I’m committed to Jesus’ Church.*”

## The religious background I came from did not have or believe in membership. Why do Wesleyans?

We understand that certain church groups do not use the term *membership* or have that kind of structure. We honour that viewpoint and choose not to argue it, but offer the following comments:

1. Wesleyans do not require official membership for a person to take Communion or to be baptized. Baptism does not automatically make you a member. We have many positions of service and responsibility where membership is not required. Our leadership does not treat those at Gateway who are not members any different than those who are members.
2. Membership is revocable. You can always back out, even after you join, if you find that it no longer resonates with you.
3. You could be a member of the family of God without being a member of a church. Likewise, you may be a member of a church and not truly be a member of God's family. What is most important is for you to be sure to establish a personal faith relationship with our Saviour, Jesus Christ. He is our hope and assurance. The church exists to help establish us in our faith and spiritual maturity.

### Many people say: *“I can be a Christian without attending or belonging to a church.”*

Technically, that is correct. Practically and biblically though, that is not God's desire. The Bible repeatedly makes the case that Christianity is not merely about “me”, but about “we”. One of the strongest analogies the Bible gives for Christ's Church is that of “the Body.” Body parts need to be in direct and continuing connection, communication, and cooperation with one another, or the body is in trouble. The church is Christ's Body, and all parts need to be connected! The Bible is clear about the existence and importance of the Church; it is the collection of God's people who are sometimes gathered and most of the time scattered about to be a “salt and light” influence for Christ.

#### Reflection

*What brought you to Gateway Church? What does “belonging” mean to you personally?*

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## Why a Membership Course?

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- We recognize that many people who come to Gateway are not Wesleyan by birth or background, and may be “in Christ,” but they don’t know anything about us.
- Therefore, many of those newest to our churches may love us and want to officially belong (membership) but are not yet ready to embrace some facets of our beliefs or lifestyle commitments.
- During a membership course, you will get a clearer picture of the “*what and why*” of Wesleyan beliefs and who Gateway is.
- This course also gives you an opportunity to ask questions, so you can get a better understanding before becoming a member. This is also a journey we want you to take with us!
- If you agree to become a member, this provides a system of protecting the integrity of our belief and lifestyle system. It sets a standard of excellence and expected development.
- Membership now becomes more meaningful than ever, and discipleship training is strengthened.

*“A person who practices being before doing, operates from a place of emotional and spiritual fullness, deeply aware of themselves, others, and God. As a result, their being with God is sufficient to sustain their doing for God.”*

**Peter Scazzero, Emotionally Healthy Discipleship (page 41)**

## MODULE 1: Welcome to Gateway Church

### Who We Are

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We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ is the most transformative force in the world, and we exist to make that gospel accessible and life-giving for the people of our community and beyond.

“Gateway” is not just a name; it is the vision God has placed over this church family. We believe every person who walks through our doors is at a doorway: a doorway to faith, to community, to a new way of living. Our calling is to help people cross that threshold and discover life in Christ.

The name of the church also comes from the area we are in: Arnprior, which is widely recognized as the Gateway to the Ottawa Valley. Located at the meeting of the Ottawa and Madawaska rivers, it serves as the threshold between the suburban edge of Canada's National Capital Region and the scenic, rural Ottawa Valley.

- **Strategic Location:** Situated directly on Highway 417 (Trans-Canada Highway), it is approximately 65 km northwest of Ottawa, making it the first major stop for travelers heading west into the Valley.
- **Transition Point:** It acts as the western gateway to Ottawa and the eastern gateway to the Upper Ottawa Valley region.

## Our Vision

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- To see the people of Arnprior and the surrounding region transformed by the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.
- We exist to help people encounter God, grow as disciples, and live as sent people in our community and world.

***Life is better together!***

## Our Mission

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Gateway Church exists to:

- Welcome people into a genuine encounter with Jesus Christ
- Disciple them into lives of faith, holiness, and love
- Equip them to serve and send them into the world

Gateway Church’s mission expresses the spiritual outcome of what the church family is praying for and working toward: a community transformed by grace, growing in holiness, and reaching others with the love and truth of the Gospel while bearing witness to the Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40).

- In short, Gateway Church’s mission is **to love God and love people.**

## How We Journey Together

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At Gateway, we describe the discipleship journey in three movements:

BELIEVING	BELONGING	BECOMING
Coming to saving faith in Jesus Christ and being born again by the Holy Spirit.	Entering a committed life with the local church through membership and community.	Growing toward Christlikeness through discipleship, service, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Membership is the commitment that anchors us to a specific community where the journey of discipleship can take root.

## What Gateway Membership is NOT and IS

Membership is NOT...	Membership IS...
Signing up for an organization	A mutual commitment to journey together
A guarantee of perfect agreement on everything	An entrance into discipleship accountability
A condition for attending or being welcomed	A public declaration of belonging
A status that elevates you above others	A means of growing together in holiness
Passive attendance	A call to serve and contribute

### Reflection

*What excites you about the idea of formally belonging to Gateway Church? What questions or hesitations do you have?*

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## MODULE 2: Our Wesleyan Family

### We Are Not Alone

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Gateway Church is not an island. We are part of something much larger: The Wesleyan Church, a global family of believers spanning over 100 countries, with a rich history stretching back to the spiritual renewal of 18th-century England.

Understanding our denominational family helps us understand who we are and why we do things the way we do. It connects us to a river of faith that runs much deeper than our own local congregation.

### The Vision of The Wesleyan Church

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#### The Wesleyan Church

**Vision:** Transforming lives, churches, and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.

**Mission:** A Spirit-led, praying movement called to evangelize and make disciples of all people by equipping believers, developing leaders, multiplying churches, and transforming communities.

## **What about The Wesleyan Church being named after a person (*John Wesley*)?**

There is a huge difference between name and essence. All people trusting in Jesus Christ as their Saviour, Lord, and Hope are in fact a part of Christ's Church. The name tag on a specific organization is simply to identify that one from the many Christian sub-groups. Just because my church may be called "The Church of Christ," "The Church of God," or "The Church of the Nazarene" does not mean that only the true believers are "contained" within that particularly named group, or that that group is more genuinely "in Christ" than other groups. The name "Wesleyan" is simply to identify the person who had a significant human influence on the specific values and beliefs of the church. Christ in our hearts and lives is the vital issue, not the name on the church sign.

It is also worth noting that The Wesleyan Church as a denomination did not exist during John Wesley's lifetime. Wesley died in 1791 as an Anglican priest; he never left the Church of England and never intended to start a new denomination. The Wesleyan Methodist Church was not formally organized until 1843, more than fifty years after his death. This matters because the name "Wesleyan" was never meant to honour a founder in the way a human institution might bear its founder's name. It was meant to honour a way of living, Wesley's deeply personal, Scripture-rooted, Spirit-dependent approach to faith. He pursued God through what we call the Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Scripture as the primary authority, informed by tradition, reason, and personal experience. He lived in accountable community, practiced the means of grace (Communion, fasting, etc.) faithfully, and believed that the Christian life was one of ongoing transformation by the Holy Spirit. That is the inheritance the name carries. Not a person to be followed, but a posture toward God worth imitating.

## Our Roots: John Wesley

The name “Wesleyan” honours John Wesley (1703–1791), an Anglican priest and Oxford scholar who experienced a profound personal conversion and went on to ignite one of history’s greatest spiritual revivals. Wesley preached to masses across England, organized believers into small accountability groups called “classes,” and championed a holistic gospel that combined personal transformation with social action.

Wesley saw himself as “*a man of one book*”, the Bible, and his confidence in Scripture as the sufficient rule for Christian faith and practice remains a hallmark of the Wesleyan tradition today.

*“I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins.”*

**John Wesley (1738)**

## An Epic History of Justice

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The Wesleyan Methodist Church was formally organized in 1843 by a group of Methodist ministers who refused to tolerate the sin of slavery. They fought to end the slave trade in America when many Christians either could not see the evil clearly or lacked the courage to oppose it. These early Wesleyans were active in the Underground Railroad and championed the rights of women and workers.

This history of social justice is not a footnote; it is woven into our DNA. The Wesleyan Church today continues to fight human trafficking, advocate for the marginalized, and believe that the gospel transforms not just individuals but communities and systems.

## Wesleyan-Arminian Theology

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Wesleyan theology falls within the Arminian tradition of Christian thought. While this may sound technical, the core ideas are beautifully practical:

Doctrine	Wesleyan Belief	Why It Matters
<b>Prevenient Grace</b>	God’s grace goes before us, drawing all people toward salvation.	No one is beyond God’s reach.
<b>Justifying Grace</b>	When we respond to God in faith, we are forgiven and made right with Him.	Salvation is truly available to everyone who believes.
<b>Sanctifying Grace</b>	After salvation, God’s grace continues making us more like Christ through the Holy Spirit.	The Christian life is a lifelong journey of growth in holiness.

## History of Gateway Church

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The roots of our church trace back to the 1870s, when many German immigrants settled in the Arnprior area and formed what became known as the Zion Evangelical congregation.

Around 1875, the congregation purchased a white, frame-constructed church on Harrington Street that had previously been used by the local Methodist Church. This transition took place after the Methodist congregation moved to a newly built brick facility on John Street, now known as Grace St. Andrew’s Christian Education Centre.

In 1907, the original frame church was demolished and replaced with a brick building on Harrington Street, which still stands today and is currently used as apartments.

Over the years, the church has undergone several name changes. In the early 1890s, it became part of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. In the 1960s, it joined the Wesleyan Methodist Church and became known as Arnprior Wesleyan Church. In the fall of 2017, the church was renamed Gateway Church.

As the congregation continued to grow, it outgrew its Harrington Street location and, in February 2013, relocated to its current home in the former Alexander Reid School building at 128 Mary Street. In the summer of 2024, the church purchased a 15-acre property on Keatley Road as the future site of a new church home.

## What We Love About Being Wesleyan

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- Wesleyans love Jesus as the center of everything.
- Wesleyan theology is orthodox (established and approved), solidly grounded in the Trinity, Scripture, and the historic creeds (e.g. The Apostles' Creed & The Nicene Creed).
- We believe grace is for everyone, and that God's prevenient grace means nobody is beyond hope.
- We believe the Christian life matters here and now, not just in eternity.
- We are passionate about both personal holiness and social justice.
- We believe men and women alike are called and qualified to serve in leadership within the church.
- The Wesleyan Church exists in over 100 countries, giving us a beautifully diverse global family.
- The Wesleyan Church of Canada has over 120 churches and approximately 15,000 attenders within two districts: Atlantic Canada (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, Newfoundland & Labrador, and the State of Maine) and Central Canada (all other provinces and territories)

## The Creeds We Share

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Gateway Church affirms the historic Christian creeds, which are held in common by all orthodox believers across traditions.

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

### Reflection

*What aspect of the Wesleyan heritage resonates most with you? Is there anything new you discovered?*

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## MODULE 3: What We Believe

### A Solid Foundation

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At Gateway Church we stand on the Articles of Religion of The Wesleyan Church, a comprehensive statement of what we believe about God, humanity, salvation, the Church, and eternity. These are not abstract doctrines; they are the living truths that shape how we live, how we treat one another, and what we hope for.

#### The Wesleyan Articles of Religion

The Articles of Religion present a biblical, Wesleyan-Arminian theology centered on:

- God's grace, human response, salvation through Christ, and a life of growing holiness.

For the complete statement of faith from The Wesleyan Church Discipline, please visit:

[https://discipline.wesleyan.org/wiki/Articles\\_of\\_Religion](https://discipline.wesleyan.org/wiki/Articles_of_Religion).

- As a member of Gateway Church, you are affirming your acceptance of these articles. They represent our shared theological heritage and convictions.

## Core Beliefs

Along with the Articles of Religion of The Wesleyan Church, we follow the below biblical core beliefs:

### The Holy Trinity

We believe in one living and true God, holy and loving, eternal, unlimited in power, wisdom, and goodness. Within this unity there are three persons of one essential nature: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Wesleyan theology begins here: with a God who is, at His very core, holy love in relationship.

<sup>16</sup>As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “*This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.*”

**Matthew 3:16–17 [NIV]**

### The Father

The Father is the source of all that exists. He relates to us as a loving Father, not as a distant ruler but as one who seeks and receives penitent sinners with open arms.

### The Son, Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, fully God and fully human. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for sin, rose bodily from the dead, ascended to Heaven, and will return to judge all humanity. Jesus is the center of everything we are and do at Gateway.

## The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, is fully and equally God, and is particularly the effective agent in conviction for sin, regeneration, sanctification, and glorification. He is ever present, assuring, preserving, guiding, and enabling the believer.

## Scripture

We believe the books of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired and infallibly written Word of God, fully inerrant in their original manuscripts and superior to all human authority. The Bible contains everything necessary for salvation. It is our rule of faith and practice.

As John Wesley declared: *“I am a man of one book.”* So are we.

## Humanity and Sin

We believe God created humanity in His image with the capacity for relationship, creativity, moral responsibility, and love. But through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, sin entered the world, disrupting our relationship with God and corrupting human nature.

Every person is born with a tendency toward sin and independence from God. We are not able, in our own strength, to save ourselves or even seek God. This is why grace is not optional, it is essential.

## Grace and Salvation

Wesleyan theology is saturated with grace. We teach that God’s prevenient grace draws all people toward salvation, making it possible for every human being to respond to the gospel. When a person repents and places faith in Jesus Christ, they are:

- **Justified:** declared righteous before God, forgiven of all sin
- **Regenerated:** given new spiritual life, born again by the Holy Spirit
- **Adopted:** welcomed into the Family of God as His child

## Sanctification and Holiness

Wesleyans have a distinct and beautiful emphasis: the call to holiness. We believe that after salvation, the Holy Spirit continues His work in us, progressively transforming us to be more like Christ. This is called sanctification.

We believe in the possibility of entire sanctification, a moment of deeper consecration and cleansing where the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered for a life of love. This is not sinless perfection, but a life increasingly governed by love for God and love for others.

At Gateway, holiness is not about rules for their own sake. It is about becoming more like Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 [NIV]**

## The Church

We believe the Christian Church is the entire body of believers in Jesus Christ, who is the founder and only head of the Church. A local church is a body of believers formally organized on gospel principles, meeting regularly for evangelism, nurture, fellowship, and worship. Gateway Church is one expression of this universal body.

## The Sacraments

Gateway Church observes two sacraments, as commanded by Christ and practiced by the Church from its beginning:

- **Baptism:** Baptism is a symbol of the new covenant of grace, a public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ, and an outward expression of inward renewal. We welcome various modes of baptism as expressions of this shared commitment.
- **The Lord's Supper (Communion):** The Lord's Supper is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death and our hope in His victorious return. When received with faith, it is a means through which God communicates grace to the heart.

## Marriage and Family

We believe that every person is created in the image of God. God's plan for human sexuality is that it is expressed only within a monogamous, lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within marriage. We hold this conviction while welcoming all people to encounter the love of Christ at Gateway.

## The Return of Christ and Eternity

We believe in the personal and imminent return of Jesus Christ. His return will bring final and complete triumph over evil, the resurrection of the dead, and the judgment of all people. Heaven is the eternal home of those who trust in Christ; hell is the eternal separation from God of those who reject Him.

### Reflection

*Which of these beliefs is most meaningful to you right now? Is there any area where you have questions or want to explore further?*

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## MODULE 4: Living as Members

### Conditions for Membership

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The Wesleyan Church establishes four conditions for membership, which we affirm at Gateway:

1. Confession of faith in Jesus Christ, evidenced by an inner witness of new birth through the Holy Spirit and a commitment to pursue holiness in all things.
2. Christian baptism.
3. Instruction in, acceptance of, and a commitment to abide by the Articles of Religion and the authority of The Wesleyan Church in matters of church government.
4. A commitment to live out the mission and vision of The Wesleyan Church and Gateway Church through a discipling relationship within our church family.
  - This commitment is less about a program and more about a posture, a daily focus toward growth, contribution, and connection within the life of Gateway Church. In practical terms, living out this commitment might look like: showing up consistently, joining a Life Group, volunteering, giving generously, being honest and accountable.

We do not require perfection; we require honest commitment. You do not need to agree with every point of Wesleyan theology to join us, but we ask that you respect and embrace the core of what we stand for. That kind of honest, humble commitment is itself the beginning of discipleship. Discipleship is not a class you complete; it is a life you live, together.

### The Rights of Membership

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As a member of Gateway Church, you receive:

- The right to vote in matters put before the Local Church Conference (LCC).
- Eligibility to serve in leadership positions within the church family.
- The right to a fair hearing if charges are ever brought against your membership.
- Membership privileges in any Wesleyan Church, should you ever transfer.

## **Membership Commitments: Guides and Helps to Holy Living**

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The Wesleyan Church calls its membership commitments “Guides and Helps to Holy Living” a name that captures their spirit beautifully. These are not a checklist for earning God’s favour. They are a map for living well, drawn from Scripture, shaped by centuries of Wesleyan wisdom.

As members of Gateway Church, we commit ourselves to demonstrate a life in Christ in such ways as to:

### **Toward God**

- Reverence God’s name and honour the Lord’s Day through worship and spiritual renewal.
- Seek only the leading of the Holy Spirit; abstain from occult practices, witchcraft, astrology, and spiritism.

### **Toward Self**

- Exercise faithful stewardship of time and resources, including generous giving.
- Follow the teachings of Scripture regarding gender identity and sexual conduct.
- Through Jesus, we can be free from addictive substances and behaviours, and we encourage people to be willing to identify and remove any form of addiction in their life (alcohol, tobacco, gambling, food, Internet/social media, pornography, etc.). We also urge anyone who is struggling with addictions to seek us out; we are here to support you.

### **Toward Family**

- Follow the teachings of Scripture regarding marriage and divorce.
- Preserve the sanctity of the home by honouring Christ in family life, demonstrating Christlike love, and avoiding all forms of violence or abuse.

## Toward the Church

- Work together for the advancement of God’s Kingdom; pray for one another; help one another in sickness and distress.
- Grow in faith through worship, the Bible, Communion, personal devotion, and fasting (means of grace).
- Preserve the unity and witness of the church in its use of language in worship.
  - The Wesleyan Church holds a specific and considered position on the use of language in corporate worship. We believe in the genuine work of the Holy Spirit and affirm the biblical gift of tongues in its historical and scriptural context. However, we do not teach that speaking in an unknown tongue is the necessary evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit or of entire sanctification. In our public gatherings, only language that is readily understood by the congregation is to be used, because worship is not only a personal experience, but also a communal one. What happens in the room affects everyone in the room. This position is not about limiting the Holy Spirit; it is about protecting the unity, clarity, and accessibility of corporate worship so that every person present, whether a lifelong believer or someone walking through our doors for the first time, can fully participate in what God is doing. Paul's own instruction in 1 Corinthians 14 is the foundation here: everything in worship should be done for the building up of the body, in a way that is understood, ordered, and accessible to all. At Gateway, we want every moment of gathered worship to be an open door, not a barrier.

## Toward Others

- Do good to all people as God gives opportunity, feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, visiting the imprisoned.
- Respect the inherent rights and dignity of all persons, regardless of race, colour, or gender.
- Live honestly, deal justly, and be faithful in all commitments.

**These commitments are held with humility and grace. If a member struggles with any of these, the church family’s first response is: always care, counsel, and restoration, not condemnation.**

## How Membership Is Received

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The membership process at Gateway follows these steps:

1. Complete the membership course.
2. Sign The Membership Declaration.
3. Be received into membership in a public Sunday service, making your vows before the congregation.
4. Receive the right hand of fellowship from the pastor.

## Types of Membership

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Type	Description
<b>Full Membership</b>	For believers who have been born again, baptized, and are ready to make a full commitment to the church community.
<b>Student Membership</b>	For children and youth who have testified to an experience of regeneration. Student members have all the rights of adult members except to vote or hold leadership positions.
<b>Transfer Membership</b>	For those transferring from another Wesleyan Church by letter of transfer.

## Transferring or Leaving Membership

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Membership is not permanent by default; it is maintained through active participation and faithfulness. Membership may be terminated by voluntary withdrawal, joining another church, persistent neglect, or death. If you move or feel led to another congregation, we will gladly support your transfer and celebrate what God is doing in your life.

- If you are considering leaving or transferring your membership, we would love the opportunity to sit down with you first. Not to talk you out of anything, but simply to listen, to hear your experience, learn where we may have fallen short, and where possible, address anything that remains unresolved. Our desire is that every person who has called Gateway home would leave well, with blessing and without unfinished business.

## Your Next Steps

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If you are ready to move toward membership at Gateway Church, here is what comes next:

1. Sign the Membership Declaration form (next page).
2. Be received publicly as a member of Gateway Church on a Sunday morning.

### Reflection

*As you come to the end of this course, what is God saying to you about belonging to Gateway Church? Are you ready to make this commitment?*

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## Membership Declaration

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By signing below, I affirm:**

1. I have confessed faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, and I am committed to pursuing holiness.
2. I have been baptized as an expression of my faith.
3. I have completed the Gateway Membership Course and accept the Articles of Religion of The Wesleyan Church.
4. I commit to live out the mission and vision of Gateway Church through active participation, generous giving, faithful service, and ongoing discipleship.
5. I commit to the Guides and Helps to Holy Living as my guide for faithful Christian living.
6. I commit to love, serve, and pray for my brothers and sisters at Gateway, and to support the spiritual authority and pastoral leadership of the church.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Finding Your Place: Serving at Gateway Church

Every member of Gateway Church is called to serve. The Bible teaches that God has gifted every believer not just for their own benefit, but for the building up of the whole body of Christ. At Gateway, we use a framework rooted in Ephesians 4:11–12 to help people understand how they are wired to serve, what is sometimes called the Five-Fold Ministry.

### Ephesians 4:11–12 [NIV]

<sup>11</sup>So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

The five-fold is not about titles or hierarchy. It is about function, the unique way God has shaped you to contribute to the life of the church and the mission of the Kingdom.

- **Apostle — Build:** You are a systems thinker, a builder, an organizer. You love structure, vision, and making things work.
  - *Possible roles: Admin, A/V, Events, Facilities, Finance, Security, LBA.*
- **Prophet — Align:** You are spiritually sensitive, prayerful, and discerning. You help keep the church attuned to God's presence and direction.
  - *Possible roles: Prayer Team, Intercessors, Worship, Communion, Creative Arts.*
- **Evangelist — Reach:** You are relational, invitational, and outward-focused. You love people and want to help them encounter Jesus.
  - *Possible roles: Welcome Team, Parking, Coffee, Hospitality, Media, Outreach.*
- **Pastor — Care:** You are compassionate, present, and deeply relational. You walk with people through life.
  - *Possible roles: Life Groups Hosts, Pastoral Care, Youth, Kids Care, Transportation.*
- **Teacher — Grow:** You love Scripture, clarity, and helping people understand truth and apply it to their lives.
  - *Possible roles: Sunday School, Life Group Leaders, Youth Teaching, Discipleship Classes.*



Most people carry a blend of two primary giftings, and that is exactly how God designed it. A healthy church needs all five voices working together. No role is more important than another. Whether you are serving coffee, running sound, leading a Life Group, or praying over the congregation before the service begins, every role is ministry.

### **Your Next Step: Gateway Church 5-Fold Ministry Assessment**

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As part of your journey into membership at Gateway, we invite you to complete a short online Five-Fold Ministry Assessment: <https://www.discoverfivefold.com>. This tool will help you identify and guide how God has wired you and connect you with the right serving opportunity.

Please send (screenshot or copy-and-paste) your results to [info@gatewaychurch.ca](mailto:info@gatewaychurch.ca).

- **Apostle** → You build things
- **Prophet** → You sense things
- **Evangelist** → You reach people
- **Pastor** → You care for people
- **Teacher** → You grow people