



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 17 May 2015

**Theme for the Year: "Out of Myself and into the Savior" (Ezekiel 14:4-6)**

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	35 - <i>Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 109
Hymn	TP 109:1-8, 24-27
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 2:10-18
Hymn	337 - <i>Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"That the Sons of Men May Become the Sons of God"
*Closing Hymn	101 - <i>Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne</i>
*Benediction & † <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i>
Announcements	† <i>Inside cover of hymnal</i>

\**Congregation standing*

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 3:00 pm  
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia  
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## Church Membership - Why Membership and What Is Expected?

### *Why This Article*

Okay, this bulletin article is probably long overdue and it has probably also been expected for some time now.

Church membership is an important issue. And it has been a thorny issue for our church because of our history.

This article is meant to encourage those who are intending to become members. And it's also meant to encourage those who are yet undecided. And it's also meant to plead with those who may be averse to becoming church members.

It's not the intention of this article to bully anyone into church membership, nor is it to meant to make members feel guilty.

But hopefully the reasons contained here would help you to think about your commitment to the body of Christ, especially this local congregation that you have been attending.

With effect from 6 May 2015, the Department of Commerce has accepted the changes to our constitution.

This means that Christians may become members, who may not completely agree with the Westminster standards, but have a teachable and humble spirit, and desire to covenant with us.

### *The Importance of Church Membership*

And it is important to be members of a local church. Not only is it important, it is commanded.

Christians are to meet often with one another to encourage one another in the faith.

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "*And let us consider one another to provoke unto*

*love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

Such mutual ministry can only take place in the context of a local body of believers. In other words, we are to identify ourselves with God's covenant people.

Can this be accomplished without formally being part of a local church? It cannot.

The reason for this is God also commands accountability. There are instructions for Christians to submit to the leaders of the church (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13) and for the leaders to watch over the souls of the Christians (Hebrews 13:7).

This cannot be done unless there is a covenant that exists to obligate the officers and worshipers of the church to one another.

Membership is also essential in having an orderly church. We are told by Paul that all things should be done properly and orderly (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Eric Lane, in his book *Members of One Another*, writes, "*The church is likened in the Bible sometimes to a body, sometimes to a family or household sometimes to a kingdom, sometimes to an army. For any of these organisms to function properly, order of some kind is required. The same applies to the church. The church is not just a loose collection of individuals, it is a closely knit structure like a human body (Eph 4:16) and has therefore to be rightly organized. For such ordering it*

*needs to know exactly who belongs to it. A family which sat down to its meal-table or locked its doors at night, not knowing who was supposed to be there and who not, would be an extremely strange phenomenon. An army battalion which did not know whom to expect on parade would soon be in chaos. If the church is to be a true family and an effective fighting force it needs to know who exactly belongs to it."*

This is the whole purpose of having membership in a local church.

#### *Duties of Members*

And if you are a member, this is what is expected of you. You are to attend church regularly. Nothing should hinder your weekly attendance but sickness or the works of necessity and mercy. Worship is your most basic duty to God (Psalm 100:2,3).

There are also ministries that you can be involved in, where you are served by others, and where you can serve others.

The prayer meeting of the church is an important ministry. Take time to pray for

the brethren - those who are sick and those who have needs.

Remember that as a church member you are part of a family and therefore you are responsible to care for other members. And this means taking time to get to know them and their needs, and including them in your prayers.

#### *Conclusion*

Many of you have been faithfully attending. You don't live elsewhere. You are not moving elsewhere. If you do, seek membership at a local church.

But since you are here, you have been attending, and there are no serious impediments, why would you not seek membership?

Membership is not a sentimental issue. It is a very practical and biblical issue.

There is a way to behave in the church of God. Being a member is one of them.

1 Timothy 3:15 – *"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."* ~ Pastor



### **Westminster Confession of Faith XXVIII - Of Baptism**

1. Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ,<sup>1</sup> not only for the solemn admission of the party baptized into the visible Church;<sup>2</sup> but also to be unto him a sign and seal of the covenant of grace,<sup>3</sup> of his ingrafting into Christ,<sup>4</sup> of regeneration,<sup>5</sup> of remission of sins,<sup>6</sup> and of his giving up unto God, through Jesus Christ, to walk in the newness of life.<sup>7</sup> Which sacrament is, by Christ's own appointment, to be continued in His Church until the end of the world.<sup>8</sup>

1. Matthew 28:19.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:13.

3. Romans 4:11; Colossians 2:11–12.

4. Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:5.

5. Titus 3:5.

6. Mark 1:4.

7. Romans 6:3–4.

8. Matthew 28:19–20.

# Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (17.5.15)</i>	<i>Next Week (24.5.15)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Raymond Woo	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Yen Fye & Angela Yap	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Ian Read, Micah Chiang	Ken Hong, Rex Sriharan
Usher	Hannah Chiang	August Ng
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Nget Chu Pang, Eva Chiu	Florence Orchard*, Jesslyn Leow, Carmel Sriharan
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>20 May 2015</i>	<i>27 May 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	SK Loh	LH Chua
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Wendy Gong

## Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Hold Fast Unto the End" (Hebrews 3:1-6).
3. Please submit your pledges to the building fund in the offering bag in the coming weeks. Deadline - 7 June 2015.
4. A pledge for \$5,000.00 was submitted last week without the "by date" indicated. Please resubmit it with the date and indicate "resubmitted" on the form.
5. The Department of Commerce has accepted the Church Constitution changes that were approved at the ECM. These changes have to do primarily with church membership categories. We would like to invite visitors to covenant with the rest of the church family to be members of this body.
6. Catechism class for baptism, reaffirmation of faith, and transfer of membership commences on 7 June 2015. Please indicate your attendance to Jimmy Orchard.

### Appointments for the Week

WED	7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting - Psalm 110
FRI	7:45 pm	JF & Parents' Group
SAT	4:30 pm	Ladies' Bible Study
SUN	2:00 pm	Adult Bible Class
	3:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School

### Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

*General Fund* - \$3,310.85 (#470 - \$350.00, #471 - \$12.90). *Missions Fund* - \$470.00 (#469 - \$100.00) *Building Fund* - \$32,030.00 (#217 - \$500.00, #218 - \$500.00, #219 - \$30,000.00, #220 - \$1,000.00, #221 - \$30.00). *Total Tithes & Offering* - \$35,810.85. Attendance - 138.

### Building Fund to Date

Total Building Fund	\$86,215.68	Total Pledges	\$9,200.00
<i>Last Week's Fund</i>	\$54,185.68	<i>Interest Free Loans</i>	\$0
<i>Last Week's Gifts</i>	\$32,030.00	<i>On-going Gifts</i>	\$1,200.00
		<i>One Time Gifts</i>	\$8,000.00

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.

Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Terence Lee** 0418 845 617. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **SK Loh** 9386 1660.