

# Membership at New Hope Community Church

*There are 2 unique and separate dimensions to church membership:*

## **1) Church Membership:**

1 Corinthians 12 describes the body of Christ and how each membership is uniquely fit into the church. Ephesians 5 compares the church to a husband/wife relationship in which Christ is the groom and the church is his bride. We are immediately included as members of God's church when we accept Christ as our Saviour.

Many people who attend New Hope Community Church consider themselves to be "members" of the church because they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and identify and participate in the local church. This is completely appropriate and accurate as it relates to membership in God's family. New Hope is pleased to have hundreds of people who identify in this description of church membership.

## **2) New Hope Community Church (London) Inc. Membership: Charitable Registration: 136750734RR0001**

In addition to being a local church, New Hope Community Church is also a registered charitable organization in the province of Ontario. As such, we have a constitution and bylaws that govern the activities of the charitable organization.

In keeping with the local church constitution, there is an official and legal church membership process. Official members are those members who assume the financial responsibility for the charity and through their elected representatives, make the financial decisions of the charity. Therefore, it is necessary for those members to be participating in both volunteer service and financial commitment to the charity.

### **Qualifications for official membership in New Hope Community Church (London) Inc. include the following:**

- a) You have begun a relationship with God by asking Jesus to assume his rightful place as the director of your life (being born again). You are prepared to live in obedience to Jesus as he progressively reveals truth to you and you have gone public in your faith commitment to Jesus by being baptized in water.
- b) You share an overall commitment to the mission statement of the church: *Helping people connect with God and each other.*
- c) You serve the vision of New Hope in at least one area of volunteer involvement on a regular basis.
- d) You are excited about giving financially to the Lord through New Hope as described in 2 Corinthians 8-9. Official membership is a recognition of shared financial responsibility and a commitment to the return at least 10% of your annual income to the local church as a thanksgiving to God, and an investment in the mission of the church through New Hope.
- e) You agree to participate in matters related to the constitution such as attending the annual congregational meeting and the election of business team representatives.