



Silver Street
community church

Welcome to Silver Street
Community Church



Becoming a Member

Introduction to Silver Street Community Church

Can we capture Silver Street Community Church in a sentence? Of course there is more that can be said but here is one sentence that we have chosen to use:

“Making Jesus known in Edmonton
as we grow to know Him better.”

To live out this aim we need to be a church doing two things...



- We need to **Go** with the good news of Jesus to where the people of our community live, work and play.
- This will mean **Going** on our own – We want every member of Silver Street Community Church to see themselves as “on mission” in our community. Be deliberate in praying for and seeking opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with those around us. Even a simple invite to church is a great way to start.
- This will also mean **Going** together – On a regular basis we want to express that we are on mission together. This is done in a number of ways including once a month getting out on the streets with invites to church and gospels to give away.



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- Growing is an essential part of following Jesus (2 Peter 3:18). At Silver Street Community Church we want to create lots of opportunities for old and new followers to grow to know Jesus better.
 - **Growing** to know Jesus also better equips us to **Go** for Jesus.
 - New Christians also need a place **Grow** as they learn to obey Jesus.
 - The good news of Jesus saves people but it also **grows** disciples – That is why we want to be a Jesus-centred Bible-teaching church. We want to keep the word of God at the heart of what we do convicted that it’s through the word of God alone that we grow to know God better.

Membership of Silver Street Community Church

Silver Street Community Church are a group of ordinary people who belong to an extraordinary family. Our church is one small part of the Church of God made up of everyone who is united to the Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit through faith in his Gospel, including those who have died and gone to be with the Lord and those who are still living.

The Church of God is essentially a gathering of God's people, assembled spiritually around the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven (Hebrews 12: 22-24). As a local part of that Church, we gather together to remind ourselves of his presence with us and the great things he has done for us, and we spur each other on to do the good works that he has saved us to do.

Becoming part of our local church family

If you are a Christian and you regard our church as your spiritual home you are already essentially part of our family and our hope is that everyone in that situation will acknowledge this by becoming a formal member of the church. By becoming a member, you are identifying yourself to the other members as one of God's people and committing yourself to serve them and be served by them under the spiritual oversight of the church leaders.

Why membership?

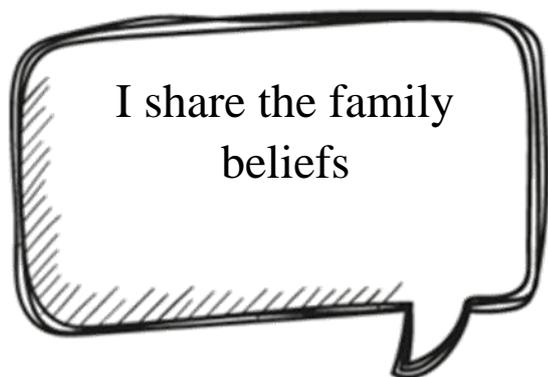
There are many ways we could answer this question but here are a few simple reasons that it seems right for Silver Street Community Church now.

First it will really help us to answer the question: "who is Silver Street Community Church?" As the church has grown over the last year knowing who-is-who will mean that as a leadership we can be more effective in our care of and prayer for the church.

Second it means we can become more effective in our care of and prayer for one another. We hope to form a prayer diary so we can devote ourselves to prayer.

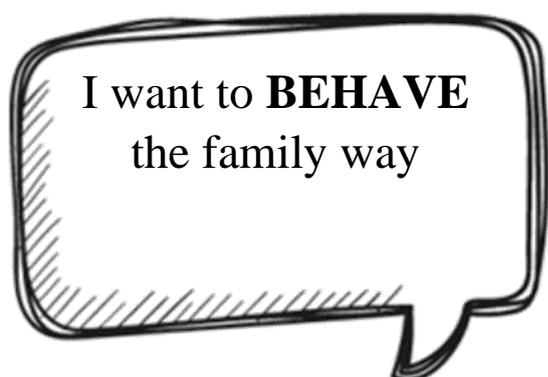
Third it means we can raise up more people to serve as the church grows.

It might be helpful to think of becoming a member as expressing your commitment in the following ways ...



One of the key requirements for becoming a member is that you express your agreement to the beliefs set out in our church's Basis of Faith. We call this our gospel-DNA. You can find this printed at the back of this booklet.

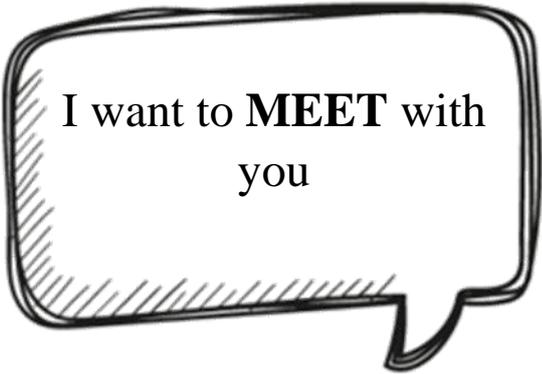
The Basis of Faith sets out the core truths of the Gospel with which we believe every true Christian will agree with. We also hold to a number of gospel distinctives as set out by the FIEC¹.



In his letter to the Ephesians the Apostle Paul exhorts the members of that local church to "be imitators of God, as beloved Children and walk in his love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God," and he insists that they must no longer live in the way that they used to before they became Christians.

Therefore, we expect that the members of our church family will be works-in-progress, continually "putting off" their old selves, being renewed in their spirits and growing into the character of the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (www.fiec.org.uk & www.fiec.org.uk/about-us/beliefs)



I want to **MEET** with
you

As a church family we have regular times where we meet together. Where possible we would hope that members of the family would make it a priority to be at those gatherings. Especially important is our Sunday gatherings and our Tuesday night prayer meetings.

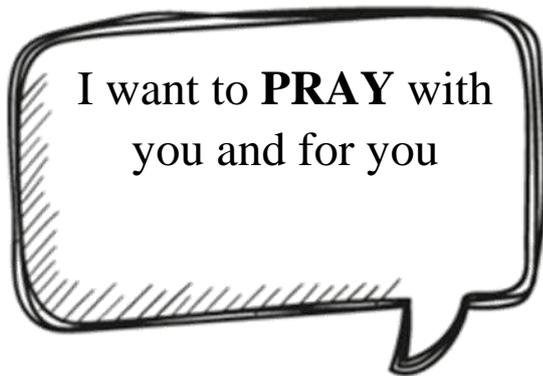
The writer to the Hebrews says: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
Heb 10:24-25



I want to **SERVE**
Jesus with you

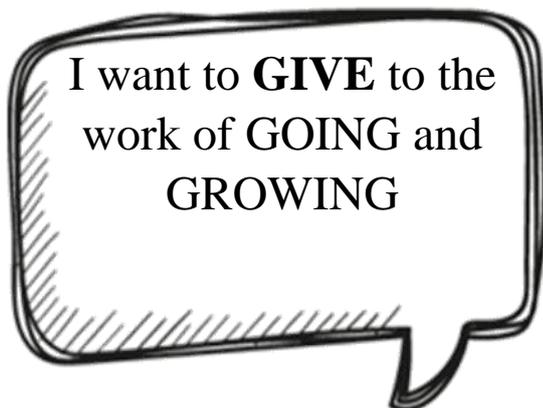
As a church family we are called to serve one another and to serve the Lord Jesus together. There are lots of ways to get involved in the family life of our local church. Everyone has been given gifts from the risen Lord Jesus that they are to use for the building up of the church.

In becoming a member you are committing to getting involved in the life of the local church in some way as we serve Jesus together.



One of the most important things we can do as a Christian is to pray.

In becoming a member you are committing to pray with the church as we seek to GO and GROW. There are regular occasions when the church gathers to pray and where possible we would hope you can join us.



To be a church family that is GOING and GROWING comes with financial costs. Each year we set a gospel budget seeking to support our local church ministries as well as gospel work around the world. In becoming a member you are committing to giving towards these costs.

A generous God calls us to be generous givers. (2 Corinthians Chapter 8 and 9)



The leader of our family is the Lord Jesus Christ himself, who leads us by sending his Spirit to give us insight into his Word contained within the Bible and to empower our obedience to his word. The Lord Jesus also gives us leaders, referred to in our Church as the Eldership, and requires us to follow them as they follow his example and to submit to their leadership so that they can serve us with joy. (Hebrews 13:7 and 13:17).

Most of the decisions within our family will be made by the Eldership, but there are some decisions that will require the approval of the church family.

So what's next if you want to become a member?



We recognise that you may have more questions about membership. If so please contact one of the Elders and we will arrange a time to answer some of your questions.



If you want to express your commitment to Silver Street Community Church through membership then please fill in the form below and return it to the Pastor. We will then arrange a time to meet up to talk about membership together. This will be an informal conversation not a test!

1. GOD

There is one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is unchangeable in his holiness, justice, wisdom and love. He is the almighty Creator; Saviour and Judge who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.

2. THE BIBLE

God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

3. THE HUMAN RACE

All men and women, being created in the image of God, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God. As a result of the fall of our first parents, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted and all men and women are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and hostile to God. Every person is therefore under the just condemnation of God and needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God in order to know and please him.

4. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He taught with authority and all his words are true. On the cross he died in the place of sinners, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood. He rose from the dead and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven where he is exalted as Lord of all. He intercedes for his people in the presence of the Father.

5. SALVATION

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ and is offered to all in the gospel. God in his love forgives sinners whom he calls, granting them repentance and faith. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life.

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply his work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the Scriptures. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for worship, service and mission.

7. THE CHURCH

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of believers who are committed to each other for the worship of God, the preaching of the Word, the administering of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; for pastoral care and discipline, and for evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel.

8. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been given to the churches by Christ as visible signs of the gospel. Baptism is a symbol of union with Christ and entry into his Church but does not impart spiritual life. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice offered once for all and involves no change in the bread and wine. All its blessings are received by faith.

9. THE FUTURE

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever.

Doctrinal Distinctives

The doctrinal distinctives listed below are the convictions of this local church on a range of issues which affect the way we conduct our church family life together. They flow from our desire to submit to the authority of the Bible in all matters of faith and practice. The Elders of the church are required to believe and teach these doctrines.

Church members are required to accept these doctrinal distinctives. That does not mean that they have to agree with the particular ways this local church applies the distinctives, but they are required to acknowledge that these are the official position of this church and that they will not promote contrary views that will either threaten the unity of the church or dishonour the name of the Lord Jesus.

- **Baptism**

Baptism is a command of the Lord Jesus Christ to all those who believe in Him. This church teaches, preaches and practices believers' baptism. The normal mode of baptism is full immersion in water, but the Elders may agree an alternative mode where appropriate.

Anyone interested in being baptised, should first speak to the Pastor or one of the other elders. The decision to baptise at the church, or not, will be taken by the Elders.

- **The Lord's Supper (Communion)**

The Lord's Supper (or Communion) is a symbolic meal of thanksgiving established by the Lord Jesus in which we:

- Regularly remember His atoning work on the cross
- Acknowledge our sharing in the benefits of His death
- Have fellowship with the Lord Jesus and each other
- Are reminded of His love for us, which is to guide our relationships as the body of Christ
- Proclaim His death until His return

All who truly believe in the Lord Jesus and know Him as their own personal Saviour are encouraged to take part.

- **Complementarianism**

This church's position is that [men](#) and [women](#) have different but complementary roles and responsibilities in [marriage](#), [family](#) life, [church leadership](#), and elsewhere. The Bible teaches that although women are precluded from certain roles and ministries within the [church](#), they are of equal status to men and have other important ministries.

This church holds to the doctrinal distinctives on Women in Ministry adopted by the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) in their Statement on this issue. This is available on the FIEC website (www.fiec.org.uk/about-us/beliefs).

- **Marriage**

This church's Statement of Faith sets out that the Bible is the final authority for all matters of belief and practice and the members of the church agree that the teaching of the Bible is that marriage is between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:31-33) and that all sexual practices outside of marriage between a man and a woman are sinful and wrong.

This includes homosexual practices (Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11) regardless of whether or not homosexual marriage is permitted by the laws of England and Wales. The Bible also teaches that we must not be actively or passively complicit in sin (1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Ephesians 5:8-16; 1 Timothy 5:22) and that faith without works is dead (James 2:17).

It is therefore important that members must in no way condone, promote, assist or encourage adulterous or extra-marital sexual practices, whether heterosexual or homosexual.

This church holds to the doctrinal distinctives on Same Sex Marriage adopted by the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) in their Statement on this issue. This is available on the FIEC website (www.fiec.org.uk/about-us/beliefs).

- **Gospel Unity**

As a member of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC), this church holds to the doctrinal distinctives on Gospel Unity adopted by the FIEC in their Statement on this issue. This is available on the FIEC website (www.fiec.org.uk/about-us/beliefs).



Membership Request Form

Full Name:

Address:

Email(s):

Telephone Number(s):

Date of birth (if you are under 18)

Are you currently in membership of another church? YES / NO

If YES – which one...

If NO – have you ever been a regular member of another church? If so which one?

After reading this booklet and prayerful consideration I can confirm that I fully agree with Silver Street Community Church's basis of faith, and I would like to apply to be part of the formal membership of Silver Street Community Church:

Sign:

Date:

