

MEMBERSHIP AT HOPE.



BECOMING A MEMBER

In Sociology, the term “third place” has been used to describe a location that is neither one’s home (first place) nor workplace (second place), and provides a place for belonging, rest, and recreation.

According to Sociologists, “third places” are places where one is known, seen, and given the opportunity for responsibility and participation in a shared life together.

Within Te Ao Māori the concept of Tūrangawaewae encapsulates the intention of a “third place”.

Tūranga means ‘standing place’, and waewae means ‘feet’, therefore Tūrangawaewae is often translated as ‘a place to stand’. Tūrangawaewae is a place we feel especially empowered & connected, providing a firm foundation, and offering us a home and a place of identity in the world.

As Christians, we believe that our primary place of identity, belonging, and rest is found in our relationship with Jesus Christ. It’s from this place that we are sent out to all the other ‘places’ and corners of society to represent him. Our purpose comes from him, and we find strength through the connections we have with one another as his people. It’s there we are united through our faith in Jesus and are incorporated into the worldwide family of God - the Body of Christ.

However, Scripture also encourages us to become participating members in a local expression of Christ’s ministry to the world - the local Church.

Membership is a spiritual commitment to be a participating member of our spiritual home.

MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER

The scriptures refer to this local expression of membership as being “**Members of one another**”.

For example: 1 Cor 12:24, Eph 3:6, 4:25, 5:30, Col 3:15 etc.



WHY IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP NECESSARY?

- It is Biblical - see references on previous page.
- We as a body need to know who we are pastorally responsible for - who are the "sheep" God calls us to care for and tend *e.g. Jer 31:10, Ezekiel 34:1, 1 Peter 5:2-3*
- We as a body need to know who we can look to for commitment in service, the exercise of spiritual gifts, ministries and responsible giving.
- We as a body need to know who has constitutional rights when it comes to voting on constitutional matters.
- We as a body need to know who we are accountable to as we steward ministries and finances.
- It counteracts the unbiblical attitude of some in the wider body of Christ who float around congregations at their whim. In membership we are committing ourselves to each other under the Lord.



HOW DO WE DEFINE A MEMBER?

Someone with a heart commitment to God as Father, Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, on-going growth in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit and a commitment to the fellowship of this congregation expressed practically by:

- Public acknowledgement
- Faithfully joining in the body life of this congregation in worship, service, giving and prayer.
- Being relationally joined to others preferably expressed in participation of a cell group or interest/affinity group etc.
- Evidence of love and loyalty to the body and the fostering of truth and unity (not precluding disagreement, challenge or constructive criticism)".

THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP;

FULL MEMBERSHIP (full PCANZ) is for people who have publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ and publicly expressed their intention to live their discipleship as part of the congregation at Hope Presbyterian. Such people are able to vote at congregational meetings regarding expenditure, calling of a new minister, National Church issues and are eligible to be Elders.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (non PCANZ) – these people are similar to the above but differ in one aspect: they do not wish their membership to extend to the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ. They identify with the local and international mission of Hope Presbyterian only. Such people would not be able to vote as full members on issues affecting the national Church, but they can vote on matters relating to calling a new minister, expenditure and local Church issues. They are unable to be Elders.

WHERE DOES MEMBERSHIP PLACE ME AS FAR AS THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND IS CONCERNED?

As we are a member of the PCANZ then people who are members also have membership rights according to the Presbyterian Book of Order. You may ask for a copy to look at from the Church Office.

PUBLIC COMMITMENT MADE BY MEMBERS ON MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

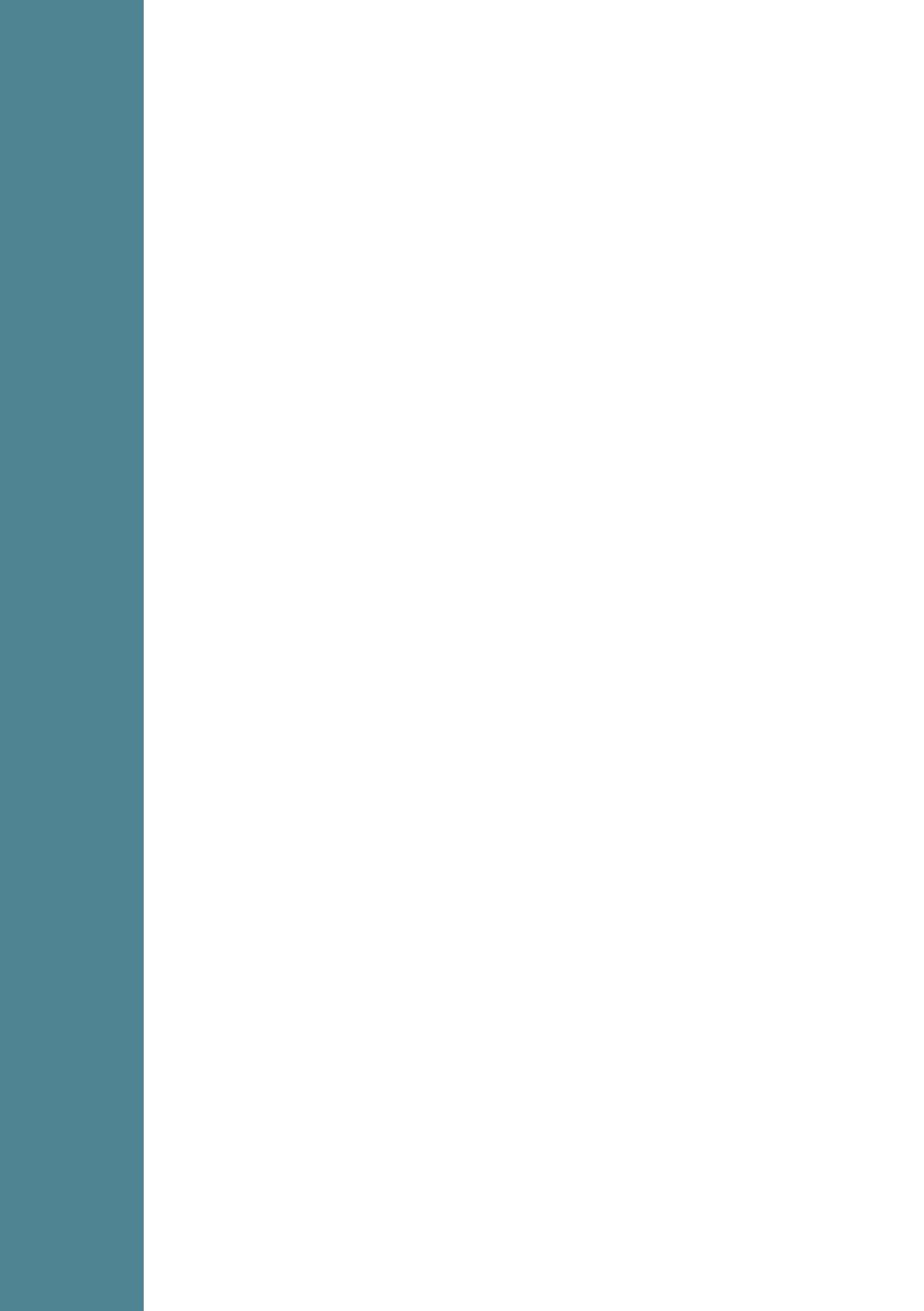
- Do you confess your faith in God as your Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord and the Holy Spirit as your helper and guide?
- Do you promise, with God's help, to serve the Lord and to walk in His ways?
- In committing yourself to the body of Christ that worships here at Hope Presbyterian, do you promise to:
 - i Foster unity and fellowship in the Holy Spirit
 - ii And give due respect to the leadership in the church
 - iii To work for the extension of the Kingdom of God
 - iv To exercise your ministry under the leading

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

Through the year we have opportunities for membership and once a year we give current members the opportunity to renew their membership vows. We ask those who would like to become members to attend a membership evening and fulfil the criteria.

If you would like to become a member or have some questions then please talk to your site pastor or reach out to info@hopechurch.net.nz







HOPE

PRESBYTERIAN