

MEMBERSHIP

at the Gatehouse Church

A family on mission
raising up Christian
disciples and reaching
out to people of all ages
with the Gospel of Jesus
Christ



www.elimblackpool.org.uk

Introduction

People are not always clear about Church Membership. This simple guide is written to help you understand what is involved in being a member at the Gatehouse Church.

We hope that it will help you as you consider membership at the Gatehouse Church.

If you want to find out more about us, please visit the website at www.elimblackpool.org.uk or speak to one of the leaders at the church.

Reasons for Membership

The concept is biblical – New Testament believers clearly identified themselves with a specific local church body and were encouraged to become devoted participants.

It is useful – Pastors and leaders are helped greatly in directing and shepherding the church by knowing those who have committed themselves to it at any given time.

It is releasing in ministry – It enables people to be part of all that God is doing at the Gatehouse. Membership can add a greater sense of belonging and involvement to everyone.

It helps fit in with charity law – We are part of a charity, and every charity needs to have a form of membership.

Responsibilities of Membership

Believing – Members have a personal faith in Jesus Christ and also acceptance of Elim's Foundational Truths (www.elimblackpool.org.uk/belief).

Growing – We are called to grow in our personal walk with Jesus and have a commitment to live lives that honour Jesus and to have good relationships with our fellow believers. Please speak to a leader if you have any questions on this.

Serving – Membership is designed to encourage individual believers to exercise the gifts that God has given them, so that "the body of Christ may be built up".

Supporting – Church attendance is a reflection of commitment to the local church family. Sunday attendance and being part of a mid-week ministry is encouraged where possible.

Giving – Finances are needed for the Gatehouse to maintain and develop its work and mission. We encourage tithes and offerings to be brought into the church. Also, if you are a taxpayer, we benefit greatly if donations are gift-aided – please speak to the finance officer for more details.

Privileges of Membership

We acknowledge that those who are planted in the Gatehouse Church and are committed to it should be recognised for their contribution to it.

Belonging – Members are people who have acknowledged where God has planted them. This confidence brings the joy of belonging to a local church family and recognition of that from the church.

Pastoral care – The leaders of the church are available for pastoral support when required.

Vision Evening – This event is to bring together our members for an opportunity to share and celebrate together. Key issues in the life of the church will be shared and members are able to be involved in decisions that will shape the future of the church.

Leadership opportunities – We wish to see leaders develop within the church. All key leadership positions in the Gatehouse require a commitment to membership.

How does Membership work

Considering – If you are interested, you should take some time to consider if membership is right for you and to prayerfully decide upon the way ahead for your participation at the Gatehouse Church.

Responding – If you would like to go ahead, please fill in the application form to indicate your desire. Each form will be considered by the church leadership, and they will get back to you quickly.

Celebrating – New members are welcomed and presented to the church family as a recognition of their desire to be joined in community and participate more fully in the ministry of the church

Requirements for Membership

The following are practical requirements for those wishing to become members at The Gatehouse Church.

- A personal faith and commitment to Jesus as Saviour and Lord.
- Membership is for those aged 18 and over.
- Prospective members should normally have attended the Gatehouse Church for at least 6 months.