



# Discover Membership

## Getting To Know Your Church

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## OUR STORY AND OUR STATEMENTS

### HOW DID ELLERSLIE'S STORY BEGIN?

Ellerslie has long been driven by a sense of vision based on a mandate from God. We believe He has placed us on this earth to do a work for Him, which will impact this city and touch our world. We were first organized in 1947 as Bethel Baptist Church, then after relocating and erecting a building, the name was changed to Park Allen Baptist, located at 72 Ave. and I09 St. For 23 years, the congregation had an effective ministry, with periods of both growth and decline, yet we can point to a lasting difference the church has made, including many who are in active ministry across Canada and around the world because of it. In 1970, we relocated again, erecting a fine new facility on the corner of 122 St. and 51 Ave. To reflect the new neighbourhood, the name was changed to Lansdowne Baptist Church.

The first service was held in the Lansdowne building on Easter Sunday, 1970. Since then the church has grown steadily, so that the building was extended twice - once in 1974 and again in 1986 with the enlargement of the foyer. Throughout its history, the church has been characterized by unity, a co-operative spirit, a clear purpose and a commitment to impact our community. And the Lord has much blessed. During the 1970's and 80's, Lansdowne Baptist launched three new congregations which came to be known as Sherwood Park Baptist Church, Castledowns Baptist Church, and the Lansdowne Chinese Baptist Church.

In 1981, the Lord led us to purchase an 8-acre tract of land at the southern edge of the city on Ellerslie Road. Though it required great sacrifice at the time, due to an economic downturn during the mid 1980's, He provided the funds to purchase the property, and we began to see more clearly its potential as a spiritual power base for reaching all South Edmonton.

After a thorough exploration of alternatives and inspired by the words and example of Nehemiah "*The God of heaven will give us success, therefore, we His servants will arise and build*" (Nehemiah 2:20), we launched a program to build and relocate yet again. Our board of deacons, on October 24, 1988, unanimously endorsed the proposal from a Long Range Planning Committee to relocate and build on the Ellerslie property, while seeking to maintain a BGC ministry at the present location. A year later, on October 23, 1989 we unanimously voted to relocate and build on our Ellerslie Road property. The building program, designated *Expanding Our Vision* came to fruition on July 25, 1993 when we held our first service at Ellerslie Road Baptist Church. While we acknowledge this beautiful place as God's special trust for us to use unto His glory, we thank Him most of all for the growing throng of wonderful people He entrusts to our care. Our commitment is to minister as best we can to each life He brings to us.

## **ERBC VISION STATEMENT**

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus tells his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This is not an option, but our great calling as followers of Jesus and must be emphasized in everything we do. Therefore, our vision as a church is to:

***Make Disciples Who Love God, Love People, Serve the World***

The journey of discipleship starts before one comes to a saving knowledge of Christ and continues through a lifetime of learning and obedience to Christ. We want to make disciples who love God with their heart, mind, and soul and love others as they love themselves, making sacrifices so the whole world may know of Jesus' love. These are our marching orders. This statement is our compass by which we make decisions about where we are going.

## **MISSIONAL VALUES: CREATING DISCIPLES AT ELLERSLIE**

1. **Surrendering to God's Word:** We believe that the Bible is the revealed Word of God, that it is completely true and trustworthy and that it is the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.<sup>1</sup>
2. **Transforming Gospel:** We are transformed as we respond in faith to God's unfathomable grace, being reconciled to God through Christ's death on the cross.<sup>2</sup>
3. **Generous Worship:** Whereas we believe God alone is worthy of our praise, worship is our response to God's revelation of Himself. We respond generously as we demonstrate loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.<sup>3</sup>
4. **Courageous Community:** We embrace the radical, belonging-to-one-another nature of the Body of Christ where diversity functions in unity under Christ.<sup>4</sup>
5. **Inescapable Mission:** We are not saved to an individual life but are called to be part of God's mission of restoring all things to Himself.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Matt 5:18; John 10:35; Rom 3:41 Cor 14:37; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 3:16; Tit 1:2; 2 Pet 1:20-21

<sup>2</sup> John 1:1, 8:32, 14:6; James 4:8

<sup>3</sup> Luke 10:27; John 3:16; Rom 12:1

<sup>4</sup> Gen 2:18; Acts 2:42; Rom 12:5

<sup>5</sup> Matt 28:19; Acts 1:8

## **ELLERSLIE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

- **Engaging the Discipleship Journey**

All people are exploring their relationship with faith or have chosen to follow Jesus as described in the Bible. For those who are seeking, we want to introduce them to a life-changing relationship with Jesus. For those who are committed, we want them to grow deeper through thoughtful time with God, having meaningful relationships with others, and serving those around them.

- **Vibrant Children and Young Family Ministry**

Reaching the future generations for Jesus Christ, and meaningfully engaging their families, not only helps to fulfill Jesus' command to proclaim the Gospel but will also strengthen Ellerslie for years to come. We believe a vibrant Children and Young Family ministry will attract and engage those who are not presently in a committed relationship with Jesus Christ, seek to bring them into community, and minister to everyone.

- **Invite, Include, Invest**

Healthy churches don't happen by accident, they need a faithful group of people who believe and are committed to the mission. Men and Women who will **invite** those who are seeking to explore the greatness of Jesus, who will **include** those who walk into our church for a sense of belonging, and who will **invest** their finances to see the good news spread in our church and around the world.

## **Meaningful Membership**

Circle the mutual obligations ("one another") that describe some key aspects of how we are to relate to each other as members in the body of Christ:

*"In Christ we who are many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others... Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves."*  
*(Romans 12:5,10)*

*"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. Accept one another, then just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God... I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another."*  
*(Romans 15:5, 7,14)*

*"Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow-workers in Christ Jesus... Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus ... Greet Mary... Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me... Greet Urbanus... Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings."*

*(Romans 16:3-6,16)*

*"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love... Carry each other's burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ."*

*(Galatians 5:13, 6:2)*

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love... Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."*

*(Ephesians 4:2, 5:21)*

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you have been doing."*

*(1 Thessalonians 5:11)*

1. **THE WORD OF GOD:** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully and verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit.<sup>6</sup> We believe that the Bible in its original manuscripts is free from all falsehood or mistake and so is entirely true and trustworthy in all its assertions on all matters of natural and theological fact and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.<sup>7</sup>
2. **THE TRINITY:** We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct, but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.<sup>8</sup>
3. **GOD THE FATHER:** We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love.<sup>9</sup> We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.<sup>10</sup>
4. **JESUS CHRIST:** We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth,<sup>11</sup> sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death,<sup>12</sup> bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven,<sup>13</sup> perpetual intercession for His people<sup>14</sup> and personal visible return to earth.<sup>15</sup>
5. **THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Father and Son<sup>16</sup> to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment,<sup>17</sup> and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ.<sup>18</sup> We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>2 Tim. 3:16; Matt. 5:18; 2 Pet.1:21

<sup>7</sup>Tit. 1:2; John 10:35; Rom.3:4

<sup>8</sup>Deut.6:4; Jas.2:19; 1 Tim.2:5,6; Matt.28:19; 2 Cor.13:14; 1 Pet.1:2

<sup>9</sup>John 4:24; Isa.6:1-4; Psa. 115:3; Rom.5:8; Deut. 7:7; Eph.2:4; 1 John 3:1; 4:7-12)

<sup>10</sup>John 3:16; 14:6

<sup>11</sup>Matt. 1:16 (fem. pron.), 20

<sup>12</sup>2 Cor.5:21; Rom.5:8

<sup>13</sup>1 Cor. 15:1-58; Acts 1:9-11

<sup>14</sup>Heb.7:25

<sup>15</sup>Acts 1:11; John 14:1-3

<sup>16</sup>John 15:26; 16:7; Gal.4:6

<sup>17</sup>John 16:8-11

<sup>18</sup>Tit.3:5; 1 Cor.6:11; 2 Cor.3:18; Gal. 5:16, 22-23; Rom.8:4; 1 Cor.12:7

<sup>19</sup>Rom.8:9-11

6. **ANGELS:** We believe that angels are a distinct order of created spiritual beings; that they can appear in human form; that good angels minister to human beings and serve God as special messengers;<sup>20</sup> that Satan, a fallen angel, and his evil angels whom he leads, exercise great but limited evil power in the world, and will suffer final defeat at the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>21</sup>
7. **CREATION:** We believe the Triune God created everything – both physical and spiritual – out of nothing (Genesis 1, Revelation 4:11, John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16-17). We believe God created human beings, male and female, in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27, 5:1) and therefore with unique, intrinsic worth (James 3:7-10) from conception (Psalm 139:13-16) to natural death (Hebrews 9:27).
8. **HUMANITY:** We believe Adam and Eve experienced perfect relationship with their Creator (*Genesis 1:31*) and were appointed stewards (*Genesis 1:28–30*) of God's originally good creation (*Genesis 1:31*). We believe they sinned by choosing to disobey God (*Genesis 3*) and thereby brought death to the human race (*Genesis 2:17, 3:19, Romans 5:12, 1 Corinthians 15:21–22*).
9. **REGENERATION:** We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation.<sup>22</sup> We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup>
10. **THE CHURCH:** We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members.<sup>24</sup> We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship.<sup>25</sup> We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.<sup>26</sup>
11. **CHRISTIAN CONDUCT:** We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow men;<sup>27</sup> that his conduct should be blameless before the world;<sup>28</sup> that

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<sup>20</sup>Heb.1:14; Acts 12:7; 27:23-4

<sup>21</sup>Jas.4:7; John 8:44; Isa.14:12-20; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 5:19; Rev. 20:2,10

<sup>22</sup>Rom. 3:10-19,23; Eph.4:18; Rom.5:12; 6:23.

<sup>23</sup>2 Cor.5:17; Tit. 3:5; Eph.2:1,4-9.

<sup>24</sup>Matt. 16:18; Col.1:18; Eph.1:22-3.

<sup>25</sup>1 Cor.1:2; Acts 2:41-2; 8:37-8; Eph.4:11-6; Heb.10:25.

<sup>26</sup>Matt.28:19-20; Luke 24:46-7; Acts 1:8; 1 Pet.2:9-10.

<sup>27</sup>1 Cor.10:31; 1 Pet.4:11; Eph.1:6,12; Gal.6:10; Heb.13:16.

<sup>28</sup>Acts 24:16; 1 Tim.3:7.

he should be a faithful steward of his possessions;<sup>29</sup> and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.<sup>30</sup>

**12. THE ORDINANCES:** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God.<sup>31</sup> We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death.<sup>32</sup> We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**13. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY:** We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith;<sup>33</sup> that each church is independent<sup>34</sup> and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.<sup>35</sup>

**14. CHURCH COOPERATION:** We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary, independent basis.<sup>36</sup>

**15. THE LAST THINGS:** We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom.<sup>37</sup> We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.<sup>38</sup>

(Adopted at the Baptist General Conference of Canada organizational meeting on April 25, 1981, amended July 2, 1994.)  
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<sup>29</sup>2 Cor.9:8-10; Eph. 5:16

<sup>30</sup>Eph. 4:16; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29.

<sup>31</sup>Matt. 28:19-20; Acts.2:41.

<sup>32</sup>1 Cor.11:23-6; Luke 22:19-20.

<sup>33</sup>1 Tim.2:5; Heb. 4:14-16; 1 Pet. 2:5

<sup>34</sup>Local church autonomy and self-governance derives from the observed practice of the NT. (Acts 15:22 - the church together sent Paul and Barnabas; 20:28 - elders as guardians of specific church; 1 Cor.5:13 - congregation instructed to act; NT makes no provision for an apostolic succession)

<sup>35</sup>1 Pet. 2:13 and Rom.13:1-7 urge submission to secular authorities; both church and state are instituted by God, yet for distinct purposes.

<sup>36</sup>The NT includes examples of local churches working together (1 Cor.16:1,19; 2 Cor.9:2). The apostles did exercise a bishop-like function over some of the churches (e.g. Acts 14:23 - appointed elders; 1 Cor. 5:5 - exercised discipline; Acts 15 - James and the Jerusalem council set a policy for all churches).

<sup>37</sup>Acts 1:11; John 14:3; Luke 24:25-33; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

<sup>38</sup>Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-9; Rev.20:11-15

## **OUR STATEMENTS OF COVENANT AND CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE**

A covenant can be consider both a legal agreement and a promise between two or more parties. The Bible is a covenant document, and when we speak of the Bible having The Old and The New Testaments we are actually speaking of The Old and The New Covenants. Using covenants is how God communicates to us, redeems us, and guarantees us eternal life in Jesus. In the same way we choose to use covenants to enter into God-honouring agreements with each other.

### **CHURCH COVENANT (from our ERBC Bylaws):**

We, as those who by grace through faith have received the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, having identified ourselves with this local expression of the Body of Christ, Ellerslie Road Baptist Church, do covenant together as follows:

- To honour, love, and serve our God (Ps. 29:2; Eph. 1:12; Rev. 5:10)
- To dwell at peace with others, being just in our dealings, and offering compassion to all (Prov. 11:1; Rom. 12:9-18; Gal. 6:10)
- To live exemplary lives marked by prayer, integrity and responsibility (Rom. 13:7,8; 1 Thess. 4:11,12)
- To proclaim the faith, always ready to give an answer for the hope within us (1 Pet. 3:15)
- To uphold our local Church through prayer; seeking its advance, strengthening its worship, supporting its programs, and sustaining its reputation as a community of Christ in the world (Heb. 10:24,25; 1 Pet. 2:9-12; 3:16)
- To pray for one another and serve together in love with our brothers and sisters in the Church, being slow to take offence, and always ready to reconcile (Rom.12:17-21; Phil. 2:1-3; Col. 3:12-17)
- To love loyally our spouses and children, encouraging them in Christian growth, modeling consistent Christian lives (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- To uphold our civic leaders and perform our civic duties, championing God's principles of justice, righteousness & the sanctity of human life (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Tim 2:1-4)

## **CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE COVENANT (From our ERBC Bylaws):**

This covenant is our agreement to act in a God-honouring way as we journey together in the Body of Christ in the same faith family. This covenant is not saying that you are not, nor will you ever struggle with any of the below mentioned issues. What this covenant wants to ensure that you will constantly and actively seek victory over these matters.

This Church believes lifestyle practices should be based upon the principles of Scripture, which standard it considers to be the final authority in guiding our faith and conduct.

Members are expected to agree and adhere to the Affirmation of Faith.

Members are expected to participate actively in the life of the Church, working for its growth by contributing time, ability and money, as enabled by God.

Members are expected to live in accordance with the lifestyle standards of the Christian faith.

Accordingly, the following represent sinful lifestyle practices contrary to biblical teachings and are therefore unacceptable:

- Malicious talk and factionalism (Eph. 4:29-32; Titus 3:10)
- Lying, deceit and dishonesty (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9)
- Extramarital sexual relationships (adultery) (Ex.20:14; Heb.13:4)
- Premarital sexual relationships (fornication) (1 Cor.6:18; Gal.5:19)
- Homosexual relationships (Rom. 1:26,27; 1 Cor.6:9; 1 Tim.1:10)
- Abuse of alcohol, drugs and gambling (1 Cor. 6:12; Rom.13:13; Prov.20:22)
- Use of pornographic material (Rom.6:12,13; 2 Tim.2:22)
- Theft, fraud (Ex.20:15; Eph.4:28)
- Abusive behavior (Col. 3:8,12)
- Sexual assault/harassment (Eph.5:3,4)
- Practice of the occult (Lev. 20:6; Deut. 18:10,11; Gal. 5:20; Rev.9:21)

## **ERBC MEMBERSHIP TRACK**

1. Declare your interest in membership by registering for the next *Discover Membership* class:
  - a. Register by contacting the church office at [office@erbc.ca](mailto:office@erbc.ca).
  - b. Read the “Discover Membership” booklet.
  - c. On the website, or via a confirmation email from our staff, you will be provided with the date and location of the next class.
2. Attend our two-part membership class:
  - a. The first class will focus on belonging and meaningful membership.
  - b. In The second class you will be asked to read “The Covenant of Membership” in advance and agree with our Affirmation of Faith.
  - c. At the end of the second class, those who wish to continue with the membership process will be required to submit a complete “Declarations of Membership”.
3. The names of those who complete the classes and submit their Declarations of Membership will be published for three weeks in the weekly church publication. This provides an opportunity for other members in the congregation to be notified of membership candidates.
4. Each membership candidate will be requested to attend an interview with at least one board member and another member of the congregation. The interview will primarily focus upon your personal journey that brought you to God and Ellerslie.
5. Following this, the Church Board will vote on the names of the membership candidates at their monthly meeting.
6. New members will then be introduced to the congregation during an upcoming Sunday service. A brief personal profile and self-picture will also be included in the New Members brochure.

*It is important to note that one does not need to become a member to participate at Ellerslie. Everyone is free to worship, volunteer, give, and participate apart from membership. Membership is for those who wish to commit to this faith family, taking responsibility for it and supporting it.*

## **ERBC REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

1. Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ
2. Have been Baptized as a Believer
3. Cannot be in a covenant with another Church  
*(Those that are, will require a letter of transfer)*

## Declarations of Membership

1. Based on the Word of God, I received & acknowledged Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

YES  NO

2. I have publicly declared my faith through believer's baptism and have been united with Jesus through his death, burial, and resurrection.

YES  NO

Date (approximate) \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

3. I commit myself to continue growing in Christ through the reading of His Word, personal prayer, and consistent worship.

YES  NO

4. To become part of the Ellerslie Church family:

a. I am in agreement with Ellerslie's Affirmation of Faith and agree to abide by its By-Laws including the Church Covenant and Christian Lifestyle statements.

b. In support of God's work through the people and ministry of Ellerslie, I agree to regularly, proportionately, systematically and joyfully give of my time, energy, talents, and resources.

c. By God's enablement, I will uphold our local Church through prayer; seeking its advance, strengthening its worship, supporting its programs, and sustaining its reputation as a community of Christ in the world (from the Church Covenant).

- I consent to my name, brief bio and picture to be announced and posted in the church bulletin in a hard copy or/and online publication.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_