



**ellerslie**

# **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 109 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.

### **Influence, 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 work hard at being people of *influence* in their families, communities and workplaces and through that influence who have earned the relational equity to *invite* people to seek and explore Jesus. Men and Women 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)

## Baptist General Conference of Canada

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**THE WORD OF GOD** We believe that the Bible is the revealed Word of God, fully and verbally inspired, written under the direction of the Holy Spirit (2 *Tim.* 3:16, *Matt* 5:18, 2 *Peter* 1:21). We believe it is without error in the original manuscripts and is true and trustworthy in all that it asserts. It has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct (*Titus* 1:2, *John* 10:35, *Romans* 3:4).

**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 (*Deut.* 6:4, *James* 2:19, 1 *Tim* 2:5-6, *Matt* 28:19, 2 *Cor.* 13:14, 1 *Peter* 1:2).

**GOD THE FATHER** We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love (*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). We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He Saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (*John* 3:16; 14:6).

**GOD THE SON** We believe in Jesus Christ, existing eternally as God's Son. In His incarnation He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin (*Matt* 1:16, 20), led a sinless life, performed miracles and taught with authority. We believe in his substitutionary atoning death (2 *Cor.* 5:21, *Rom* 5:8), bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven (1 *Cor.* 15:1-58, *Act* 1:9-11), perpetual intercession for His people (*Heb.* 7:25) and personal visible return to earth (*Acts* 1:11, *John* 14:1-3).

**GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT** We believe in the Holy Spirit, who was sent by the Father and Son (*John* 15:26; 16:7, *Gal.* 4:6) to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (*John* 16:8-11), and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ (*Tit* 3:5, 1 *Cor.* 6:11, 2 *Cor.* 3:18, *Gal.* 5:16; 22-23, *Rom* 8:4, 1 *Cor.* 12:7). We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide (*Rom* 8:9-11).

**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 (*Heb.* 1:14, *Acts* 12:7; 27:23-24); 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 (*James* 4:7, *John* 8:44, *Isa.* 14:12-20, 1 *Peter* 5:8, 1 *John* 5:19, *Rev.* 20:2,10).

**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 (*Psalms 139:13-16*) to natural death (*Hebrews 9:27*).

**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*).

**REGENERATION** We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation (*Romans 3:10-19,23, Eph. 4:18, Rom 5:12; 6:23*). We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour are regenerated by the Holy Spirit (*2 Cor. 5:17, Titus 3:5, Eph. 2:22-23*).

**THE CHURCH** We believe in the universal church, the living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members (*Matt 16:18, Col 1:18, Eph. 1:22-23*). We believe in the local church, consisting of a community of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, ministry and fellowship (*1 Cor. 1:2, Acts 2:41-42; 8:37-38, Eph. 4:11-16, Heb. 10:25*). We believe that the mission of the church is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ into our lost world (*Matt 28:19-20, Luke 24:46-47, Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 2:9-10*).

**CHRISTIAN CONDUCT** We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others (*1 Cor. 10:31, 1 Peter 4:11, Eph. 1:6,12, Gal. 6:10, Heb. 13:16*) that their conduct should be blameless before the world (*Acts 24:16, 1 Tim 3:7*) that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions (*2 Cor. 9:8-10, Eph. 5:16*) and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ (*Eph. 4:16, 2 Cor. 3:18, Rom. 8:29*).

**ORDINANCES** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe in Christian Baptism as the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the triune God (*Matt 28:19-20, Acts 2:41*). We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ in order to remember His death (*1 Cor. 11:23-26, Luke 22:19-20*). We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and celebrated until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM** We believe that every person is directly responsible to God (*1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 4:14-16, 1 Peter 2:5*). Believers should be free to covenant together in autonomous congregations without undue interference from any ecclesiastical or government authority (*Acts 15:22; 20:28, 1 Cor. 5:13*). While respecting the authority of government we affirm the responsibility of the church to speak into the public forum. In matters of disagreement between Scripture and government, we believe we must obey God (*1 Peter 2:13, Romans 13:1-7*).

**CHURCH COOPERATION** We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in an association of likeminded congregations. Such an organization, whether a district or national 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 (*1 Cor. 16:1,19, 2 Cor. 9:2, Acts 14:23, 1 Cor. 5:13, Acts 15:ff*).

**LAST THINGS** We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom (*Acts 1:11, John 14:3, Luke 24:25-33, 1 Thess. 4:13-18*). We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the endless suffering of the unbeliever in Hell (*Dan. 12:2, John 5:28-29, Rev. 20:11-15*) and the eternal joy of the believer in the presence of God.



# OUR CHURCH COVENANT AND CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE COMMITMENT

A covenant can be considered 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 COMMITMENT

Joining a local church does not mean you're perfect, but it does mean you desire to grow in your relationship with God and with others. Together, we will make disciples who do the same. With this in mind, we invite you to make the following commitments:

## 1. **AFFIRM THE STATEMENT OF FAITH**

I agree with our statement of faith that describes, among further details, that the Bible is the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, without falsehood in its original manuscript, and has authority in all matters of faith and conduct (2 Tim. 3:16). Through the Scriptures, God has given us everything we need to know about his redeeming work through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as we await his visible and glorious return.

## 2. **PARTICIPATION IN SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY**

I believe that joining Ellerslie means joining a local expression of the family of God and I commit to attending, giving, praying, and serving as joyful acts of worship. While the Sunday worship service is a time the whole church family gathers together. I will also find groups in which I can participate and serve for my own spiritual growth (Heb. 10:25; Eph. 4:11-13).

## 3. **COMMIT TO SEXUAL PURITY**

Just as Jesus lived a perfect and holy life, I also want to live a pure and holy life which honours him. I will commit to sexual purity, treating others and myself with honor and dignity, knowing we were made in the image of God (Gen 1:26,27) and are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:16-20). I understand that the use of pornography, sexual immorality, and sex outside of a heterosexual marriage relationship is contrary to God's initial design for humanity and I will abstain from these practices.

## 4. **CHRIST AS OUR IDENTITY**

Current culture suggests we find our identity apart from Christ, identifying with certain groups, sexual orientations, and gender preferences. However, in obedience to Jesus, I find my identity in Christ (Gal. 2:20) and don't need to look beyond Him for personal discovery. Further to this, I believe God carefully created me in the womb (Psalm 139:13) and how I was physically created at birth is what the Father has predetermined for me.

## 5. **FOCUS ON PERSONAL GROWTH**

While we are called to make disciples, we are also called to grow as disciples ourselves (Php. 1:6; Col. 1:28,29). As such, I commit to personal growth through prayer, the reading of scripture, and other spiritual practices, as I become a life-long learner for God's glory.

**6. AVOIDANCE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Our nation permits the use of alcohol and certain drugs. However, while these are permitted, they are not necessarily beneficial. The Bible allows for the consumption of alcohol but also clearly teaches not to get drunk (Eph. 5:18) and not to use our freedom to cause others to take offense (1 Cor. 8:9). Therefore, other than for medical reasons, I will refrain from the use of substances in a way that will alter my judgement and impair my mind.

**7. LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY**

We read in 1 Cor. 10:31 that "*Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*" Our words, our thoughts, and our deeds all have potential to bring God glory or cause hurt and shame. Therefore, I commit to living my life, both privately and publicly, in a way that brings God glory in everything I do.

## ERBC GOVERNANCE

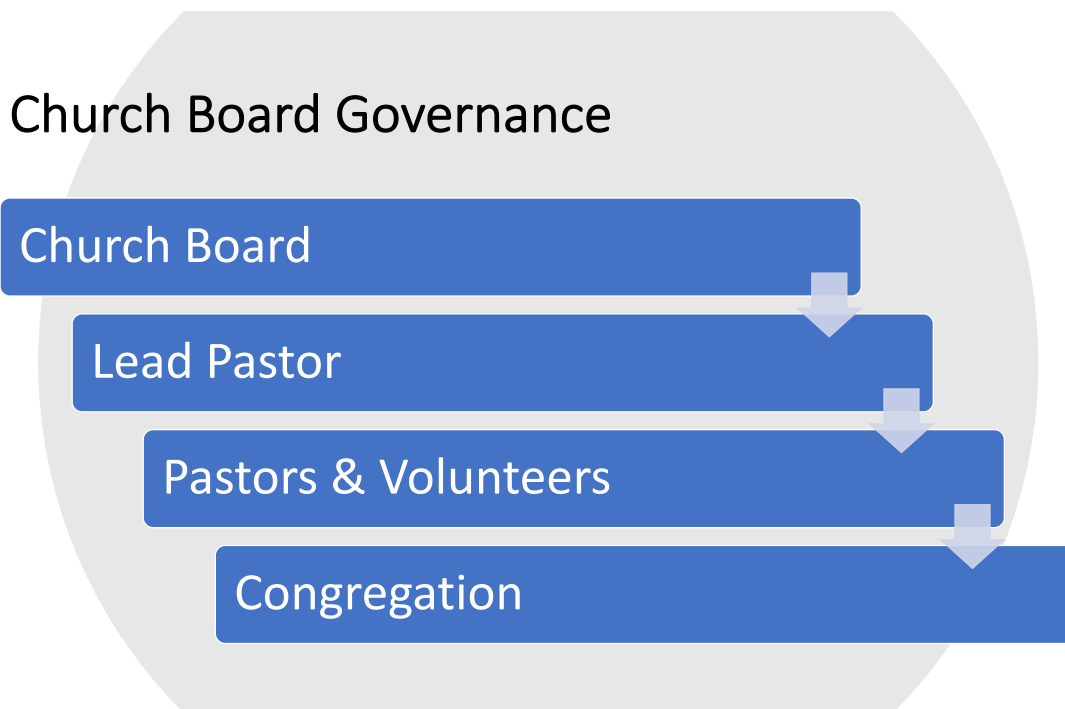
Ellerslie is **governed** by the Church Board, **led** by the Lead Pastor and staff team, and **affirmed** by the membership. Each group plays an important role in our governance process.

**The Church Board** prescribes for the Lead Pastor the major ends to be achieved by the church. In so doing, the board tells the Lead Pastor what difference the church is to make and for whom and to what extent. Such direction includes a clear statement of the church's missional values and strategic directions, as well as any limits to the church staff.

**The Lead Pastor** leads the staff and volunteers of the church in carrying out the direction of the Church Board. Working with the staff team and volunteer leadership, the Lead Pastor is responsible for determining the means by which to realize the mission of the church.

**The Membership** elects the Church Board and affirms the mission and major decisions of the church.

You can find more information on the church's governance in the Church Bylaws. (<http://erbc.ca/bylaws>)



## 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.
  - 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. Work through the Membership course material with an approved Facilitator.
  - a. The course is offered regularly as either a one or two-part class working through the membership manual.
  - b. In extenuating circumstances there may be a one-on-one work through of the material with a staff member for those unable to attend the regular course times.
  - c. After completing the material, those who wish to continue with the membership process will be required to submit a “Declaration of Membership” form.
  
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 by service announcements and/or in the congregational weekly email. A small bio may be requested.

*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 – SUMMARY**

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)*

*As written in our ERBC Church Bylaws:*

### Article 3 – Membership

3.1 Membership of this Church is open to any person who:

- a. openly confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour;
- b. has been baptized as a believer through immersion. An exception can be made under special circumstances relating to immersion baptism and this will remain at the Church Board's discretion;
- c. shows signs of regenerate life, and supports the teachings, purposes and ministries of this Church;
- d. is over the age of eighteen (18).

## 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 the Baptist General Conference Affirmation of Faith and agree to abide by the Ellerslie By-Laws including the Church Covenant and Christian Lifestyle Commitment. (Ellerslie Bylaws: <http://erbc.ca/bylaws>)

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 and brief bio (if requested), to be announced and posted in the church bulletin in a hard copy and/or congregational weekly email.**
- **I would like to subscribe to the congregational weekly emails.**

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

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

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

## Membership Record

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Immersion Baptism (age/date/location): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Office Use – to be filled by the Church Office**

Membership Track

**Step one:**

ERBC Membership Class (date/led by): \_\_\_\_\_

**Step two:**

Bulletin Publication Dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Announced for 3 consecutive weeks to the congregation)

**Step three:**

ERBC Interview date: \_\_\_\_\_ Recommended for Membership: ( Y/ N )

Interviewer Names:

\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Step four:**

Board Approval (date of meeting/approval): \_\_\_\_\_

**Step five:**

Welcomed Publicly (date/details): \_\_\_\_\_  
Church congregational email.