

BETHESDA PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP

NOTE: The membership procedure is governed by the constitution of Bethesda; in the case of discrepancy between this document and the constitution, the constitution will supersede.

Members of Bethesda fall into one of the four following categories:

- Regular
- Junior
- Student
- Associate

ELIGIBILITY

Regular Membership is open to those who meet the following criteria:

- Profess their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- Are at least eighteen years old
- Support the assembly financially, through regular and consistent receiptable tithes, as verified by the church treasurer
- Attend church services regularly
- Subscribe to the doctrine standard as set out in the constitution
- Fully accept the assembly's constitution & by-laws
- Have attended this assembly for a minimum of six months after making a confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

OR

- Present a letter of transfer from another assembly within the fellowship or other affiliated fellowship

Junior Membership is held by those who meet the qualifications of Regular Membership but are between the ages of 12 and 18. These members do not enjoy voting privileges with respect to assembly business.

Student Membership is held by students who desire a church home while attending educational institutions in the city. Student members do not enjoy voting privileges with respect to assembly business, and this class of membership is not intended to replace that person's membership in his/her church home.

Associate Membership is a non-voting membership that is available to those who meet the following qualifications:

- Those 18 years or older who have a definite born-again experience.
- Those who are in general harmony with the Statement of Faith of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland and Labrador, as adopted by this church.
- Those who regularly attend this church, having done so for a period of at least six consecutive months.

Associate Members have full privileges in the congregation, with two exceptions:

- They do not have a voice or vote in congregational business.
- They are not eligible for elective offices of the Board of Deacons and Departmental Heads.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A person wishing to become a member will follow this process:

- Obtain an application form and a copy of the constitution & by-laws - digital copies (bethesda.ca/membership) or physical copies (*church office*).
- Read the constitution & by-laws in its entirety.
- Complete the application and submit it online or return it to the church office.
- Wait for contact from an office administrator to arrange a meeting with the Lead Pastor and a Board Member. The purpose of this meeting is not to determine whether you are a perfect Christian, but to affirm your commitment to Christ, to this church body, and to the lifelong process of spiritual growth. This meeting benefits both the applicant and church leadership. As the pastor and the membership committee get to know the applicant, they can determine where the applicant might be best directed for ministry.
- The Lead Pastor and Board Member will report to the membership committee (made up of the church board and pastors).
- The membership committee will make its decision and communicate, in writing, to the applicant.

Transfers from affiliated assemblies undergo the same process, with the exception of waiving the six-month waiting period.

For further information regarding the membership process, contact info@bethesda.ca