



2014 MEMBERSHIP – FAQ’S

We are delighted that you have shown interest in becoming a member of Lakeshore Community Church (LCC) in Bright’s Grove, Ontario. The following information about membership at LCC has been arranged in a “Frequently Asked Questions” format. After you have read it and the *Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths* brochure, complete the application form and forward it to the Senior Pastor or the church office.

What is the history of LCC?

In 1999, Bethel Pentecostal Church in Sarnia launched a unique new church in Bright’s Grove with Pastor Dan Helps as the founding pastor. Sunday services were held at the Public School and LCC purchased an office building at 2695 Hamilton Road (sold in 2011). LCC bought 18-acres of land on Old Lakeshore Road and created a subdivision plan to include 39 homes and a 5-acre field for a future church building. Annette Miner joined the staff in 2002, ministering primarily to children. After 8 years, Pastor Dan resigned, and Rev. Troy Tobey became pastor in September 2007. Kathleen Tobey also joined the ministry staff. In May 2011, construction began and the first service in the new church building was Dec. 24, 2011. Annette and Kathleen both stepped down to pursue other things in 2013, and Paul Tyas came in as assistant pastor. The church received letters patent as an Ontario Corporation in 2008, and the membership voted in favour of adopting Bylaw One as our governing document in 2011. Since 2007, LCC has gone from 33 to 87 members.

What is Lakeshore’s Place in the church community?

Lakeshore is evangelical and Pentecostal in doctrine and practice. We are affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and we participate in the Sarnia Evangelical Fellowship of Churches. We contribute to Missions on local, national and international levels. We constantly seek to be involved in local events and community projects, and to nourish a positive rapport with area residents. We take seriously our responsibility to be a distinct representation of the Kingdom of God in this community

Who can be a member?

Membership at LCC is available to individuals who are 18 years of age and older who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. They shall be baptized in water and demonstrate a life of compliance to the biblical standard of Christian practice.

They are to manifest growth by giving evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in their life: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5: 22, 23 NIV). They shall refrain from “acts of the sinful nature: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like”. (Galatians 5:19-21 NIV) Sexual immorality shall be interpreted to mean common-law marital relationships, pre-marital and extra-marital sexual relationships (I

Corinthians 6:15-18; 7:1-2; I Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4), and all forms of homosexual activity, along with other practices deemed inexcusable for Christian conduct, and which place a person under God's judgment (Romans 1:26-2:11). They shall indicate a desire to live in harmony with this body of believers, and shall accept the basic doctrinal standards as set forth in the *Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada*. They shall also be regular financial supporters of LCC.

A member may withdraw from LCC membership at any time, unless a disciplinary process has begun. Notification of withdrawal or transfer should be communicated to the Pastor or Board of Directors in writing. Membership may be removed to due absenteeism for a period of six months or due to necessary Church discipline.

What do I have to do as a member?

Membership to LCC carries certain privileges, rights and duties with it. Members shall support LCC with their attendance at services and activities, with their finances, and by sharing in the work as a volunteer. Members should have a working knowledge of Bylaw One, our governing document. Members have the right to attend, speak and vote at all Member Meetings. This includes the right to nominate and vote for the Church Board of Directors. Members have the duties of submission to the spiritual authority and procedures of the Church. This submission includes adhering to disciplinary action if it is warranted. Membership allows some ministry opportunities that may not be offered to an adherent, such as serving on the Church Board of Directors. If the pastorate becomes vacant, members vote on the incoming pastor.

What about those who attend but are not members?

Adherents are also faithful supporters of LCC, attending regularly, supporting financially, serving when opportunity arises. They are to respect the church constitution (Bylaw One) and church leadership. However, adherents who choose not to become members do not have a vote in the business matters of the church, and are not allowed to hold primary leadership positions. They may still come under church discipline, much the same as members, according to our bylaw.

Who makes leadership decisions at LCC?

As chairman of the Board and recognized as shepherd of the flock, the pastor leads the congregation with the support of the Board of Directors. The membership nominates and elects the Board and votes on major decisions such as properties and building projects. By-Law One contains much detail on this topic. Affiliated with the PAOC's Western Ontario District, some decisions require ratification of the District, but LCC is self-sustaining and autonomous in matters of financial responsibilities, ministry direction and function.

What if I do not agree with all the Church's belief statements?

The *Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths* is our doctrinal statement, including supporting scriptures. Prospective new members are asked to read this document. If you have areas of disagreement or misunderstanding, please bring these concerns to the Pastor. Because the current congregation represents a variety of church backgrounds and traditions,

there is a general culture of graciousness on various points. For instance, for some the doctrine of speaking in tongues is a new concept, so LCC asks the question, “As much as you understand of the Holy Spirit, are you willing to let the Spirit do whatever He wants to do in your life”? This allows for growth in the area of experience and understanding of the doctrinal concept. Others may find the practice of adult baptism to be a foreign practice; we ask that you simply approach it with a gracious attitude. On many topics, further resources can be made available.

What about business meetings?

You will be given two weeks’ notice regarding any congregation meeting. The meetings are generally chaired by the Pastor, and we broadly follow Roberts’ Rules of Order. Voting is by an upraised hand, unless a secret ballot is requested by the membership. 25% of the membership constitutes a quorum, and non-members may attend, but must request permission to speak. In elections for Board of Directors, members can nominate, and names are approved by the nominating committee (the Board).

What does it mean to be incorporated?

Lakeshore Community Church is also known as Ontario corporation #1768667. Being incorporated provides a legal covering for our Board of Directors and our members. Members cannot have their personal assets used to satisfy a legal judgment against the Church simply because they are ‘members’ of the Church. Incorporation also helps us take care of the assets of the church, and future ministry endeavours. The congregation has been functioning under Bylaw One as our governing document since the membership voted in favour of it at the 2011

annual meeting, although some steps of the incorporation process remain outstanding. We consider all activities of LCC to be activities of the incorporated church.

Where is LCC headed?

We believe our growth as a congregation represents the blessing of God upon our church, and we believe our church will continue to expand as we are faithful to God’s leading. We place a high value on developing a welcoming culture of love, humility, honesty, integrity, and a commitment to learn more and more of what God has for us. We are always willing to consider new ministry areas, and further building expansion is possible as well. Our desire is to constantly seek to be effective in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with our community, and to make disciples that will serve God’s Kingdom purposes.

So what do I do now?

A request for membership must be received in writing, and you can do this simply by completing the attached application form. It will ask you if you have read this material, and if you have read the *Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths*. This application form shall then be considered by the Church Board of Directors, and you can expect to be contacted by the Senior Pastor once your application has been considered.

A full copy of the Church’s Constitution (also known as By-Law One) is available for those who wish to read more.

Please keep this information for future reference. If you have questions, feel free to contact the church office at 519-869-8485.

Thank you.