

THE GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION

APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP

WHY BE A MEMBER?

We're called, as believers, to demonstrate our love for Christ by obeying his commands (John 14:15-21) and we're called to play an active part in God's local church (Heb 10:23-25). Part of that commitment involves us all making a willing choice to submit to one another out of our love for Christ (Eph 5:21). The purpose of that submission is to bring unity and maturity in our faith (Eph 4:11-16).

Our role as leaders is to encourage all who are part of God's church at the Good Shepherd Mission (GSM) to become spiritually mature. We are to keep watch over the church whilst setting an example, in our lives, that is worth imitating. We're to be faithful in our decisions and teaching and to pray regularly for the church. The task is thought significant enough that the leadership will have to give an account for how well they have led (Heb 13:17) and, in this context, the church is encouraged to submit willingly to their leadership.

The people who attend the GSM on a Sunday morning come from many different walks of life and are at different stages in their awareness of and trust in the Gospel, and we do not presume that anyone who attends the GSM, for any length of time, has automatically agreed to submit to the authority of the leadership. Scripture is never explicit about a need to formalise membership but it does imply that Christians are to make an active decision to submit to the leadership of the church, in part so that, as Leaders, we can be clear about who has chosen to be in such a relationship with us and the Good Shepherd Mission.

If you are committed to the GSM as your local church, we would encourage you to express this by applying formally to become a member. Please talk with the Pastor or any of the leadership team if you have any questions about this. If you decide you want to apply for membership, please complete the accompanying form, 'Application for Church and Charity membership.'

If your application is approved by the Mission's leaders, you will be a member of both 'The Good Shepherd Mission' church and registered charity. Membership confers the right to vote at Annual General Meetings and other formal meetings. The leadership team are therefore both leaders of the church and Trustees of the charity.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

1. Walk Daily With Jesus Individually.

This involves:

- Belief in the basic truths of the Christian gospel
- Seeking to grow in spiritual maturity
- Acting with love towards others
- Living holy lives
- Sharing the gospel individually

2. Submit to his Lordship collectively.

Jesus calls those who follow him to be part of a local community of believers.

Together we will focus our attention on the teaching God has given us in the Bible, and will worship God by submitting to his Lordship over our lives as a congregation.

This involves:

- Meeting together regularly
- Building accountable relationships with each other
- Praying together
- Being baptised
- Sharing in communion regularly
- Giving financially
- Serving the church
- Spiritual oversight

3. To make Jesus known locally.

Making Jesus known locally involves committing to sharing in the outreach work of the church.

This involves:

- Prayer
- Giving priority to the outreach work of the Mission

A fuller explanation of this statement is available on request

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in:

1. The one true God who lives eternally in three persons -the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
3. The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God -fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
4. The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.
5. The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ -born of the virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
6. The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
7. The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
8. The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
9. The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
10. The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers -given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
11. The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

The Evangelical Alliance statement

CHARITY OBJECTIVES

The Charity's objectives as set out in the Mission's constitution are:

- The advancement, proclamation and furtherance of the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs set out in the Schedule hereto in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and elsewhere in the United Kingdom or the world;
- The relief of persons in conditions of poverty, need or other hardship, or who are aged or sick in the said Borough or elsewhere in the United Kingdom or the world;
- The advancement of Christian public education in the said Borough or elsewhere in the United Kingdom or the world;
- The undertaking and fulfilling of such other charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the said Borough or elsewhere in the United Kingdom or the world as the trustees shall determine.

THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor: Vincent Buchanan, Outreach Manager: David Bishop;
Chairman: Simon Martin, Treasurer: Andrew Wright,
Other members: Mike Gough, Julia Moody.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION

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Registered charity No. 1047068
Company limited by guarantee No. 3031141

THE GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH AND CHARITY MEMBERSHIP

I apply to become a member of The Good Shepherd Mission, and confirm that I subscribe to the church's Mission Statement and Statement of Faith, and the Charity's objectives as set out in the membership leaflet. Should the Charity be wound up whilst I am a member, I undertake to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £10) towards its debts.

TITLE	FULL NAME
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ADDRESS	POSTCODE
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PHONE	EMAIL
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SIGNATURE	DATE
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PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:
The Administrator
The Good Shepherd Mission
17 Three Colts Lane, London, E2 6JL

DATE MEMBERSHIP APPROVED (LEAVE BLANK)
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