



Membership Rules

1. Members shall abide the church decisions. When any decision was in dispute then members shall raise their concern to the Church Management Committee via a current process.
2. Members shall attend regularly the Monthly Communion of the Lord's Supper (subject to their eligibility), and Sunday Service.
3. Members shall NOT bring any private difference before the church which has taken place between themselves, nor any fault that any member may have committed against another to preserve the unity and peace of the church.
4. If a member wishes to give up his or her membership, he or she shall give his or her notice of intent in writing to the Senior Pastor or the Church Secretary for consideration.
5. If a member ceased to attend the church service for a continuous six (6) months without giving a notice of absence to the Senior Pastor or the Church Secretary, then his or her church membership will automatically be cancelled. No further formal communication about the matter will be provided afterwards between the Church Management Committee and that ex-member.
6. If a member repeatedly neglected the spirit of the Church Membership Rules then the Church Management Committee shall determine, whether for the reproof, rebuke, suspension, or exclusion of the offending member. That member will be informed of that decision in a due course.

(Please read the Explanations on following pages)

Explanations

1. Why do we need rules?

Because we are a registered non-profit incorporation, it is a legal requirement for our church to have some formal internal rules as part of our church's Constitution. On the other hand, the rules also do have a practical operational value for us. They explain what our purpose as a church is, and they also set out what we believe as a church and how we should behave as individual members. They are rules, which we have consciously agreed together as a church of God.

2. Why should one become a member?

It has always been a Biblical principle that Christians be an active part of a fellowship of believers. If you become a member of our church you commit yourself to be a part of the Vietnamese Evangelical Church in Melbourne, with shared Vision and Mission.

3. Who can become a member?

The membership is open to all who come to our church to worship with us and learn together about how to become better followers of Jesus Christ.

4. How do I become a member?

This is a two-step process. The first one is to speak with the Senior Pastor, who will explain more and answer any questions you may have. If you then want to proceed, then the second step is to obtain a **Membership Form** from the Secretariat. When your form is accepted, the Senior Pastor will welcome you into the church membership during a Sunday service.

Becoming a church member is not the same as joining an association or club but about making a covenant together to serve God and be His church in this place. In this way we express the real meaning of church membership as per His teachings.

5. What are my rights and privileges as a member?

As a member you can play a full part in deciding what our Church does. For example, what are its priorities; how its budget is spent; how the various church activities are run; and who are chosen to be the Pastors and Deacons (of the Church Management Committee). An important part of the God's church's values is the care and support, that is offered and received by all.

6. What are my responsibilities as a member?

As a church member, naturally you have responsibilities as well as rights. Below are some basic responsibilities but not an exhausted list for your reference:

- *attending worship;*
- *personal prayer and Bible study;*
- *attending the Communion of the Lord's Supper (providing you have already received the Baptism);*
- *helping the church outreach program whenever possible to advance the church's Vision and Mission;*
- *participating in church activities and meetings;*
- *respect of decisions made by the Church Management Committee;*

- *giving financial support to the church;*
- *upholding Christian values.*

7. Where can I get a copy of the complete the Melbourne Church Membership Rules?

The **Membership Rules – Melbourne Church** are available on the church website at www.vecamelbourne.com.au or you can ask the church Secretariat for a printed copy. Together with the **Constitution of Vietnamese Evangelical Church in Australia (VECA)**, the **Membership Rules – Melbourne Church** are in the integral form of our church's Constitution.

In cases of there were conflicts between the **Constitution of VECA** and the **Membership Rules – Melbourne Church**, then the latter will take precedence and be applied.

The **Membership Rules – Melbourne Church** are evolving. Rules may be updated from time to time by the Church Management Committee when new circumstances warranted.