

Membership at Evans Head/Wardell Presbyterian Church

Becoming a member at Evans Head/Wardell Presbyterian Church means that you are committed to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. That you are wanting to say publicly that you are committed to the aims and vision of the church and you are committed to the people of this congregation to help them fulfil our aims and our vision.

OUR AIM:

To reach out to the community with the good news of Jesus to see lives transformed into vibrant followers of Jesus.

Our Vision



Connect

Grow

Serve

Connecting with God and others through Jesus mainly at church and desiring to see our community do the same

Growing in love for God and each other in small groups

Serving in love, one another and the community by the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God

In becoming a member you will be asked to stand before the congregation and answer the following questions:

- 1) Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?.
- 2) Do you commit to seeing the good news of Jesus Christ taken to our community to see people's lives transformed to become vibrant followers of Jesus?
- 3) Do you commit to love and serve Jesus to the best of your ability in your whole life and especially by loving and serving these people here at Evans Head Presbyterian Church?

Once a member you are now able to vote in our meetings on all issues and when it comes to voting on or looking to having a new minister or new elders a members vote counts more than a regular attendee who hasn't become a member.

As members of the congregation we expect you to be committed to being at Sunday's meetings, be involved in a growth group and to look to be a able to serve in one area of ministry.

The main purpose of becoming a member is to say you are committed to Jesus, to the aims and vision of the church and to the people of this church. It is a good thing to do.

What on earth is Presbyterian?

Presbyterian is a strange word comes from a Greek word (the New Testament section of the Bible was originally written in Greek) for elder. So, Presbyterian simply refers to the fact that our church (at the local level) is governed by elders. Currently, there are 199 Pastoral Charges (323 congregations) and approximately 20 000 people involved in the PCNSW.

The Presbyterian Church is ruled by a series of 'courts', chaired by a moderator and made up of ministers and elders.

The **local court** is the Leadership Team (Session) which governs the affairs our church. This court meets once a month. The **regional court** consists of a number of localised pastoral charges combined into a body called a Presbytery. Our Northern Rivers Presbytery meets every other month. Presbyteries in turn are combined into a **state wide court** called the "NSW General Assembly". Assembly meets once every year in July. The various State Assemblies combine into the "General Assembly of Australia". This court meets once every three years. Each of these courts has a distinct function. Most implement their work through a series of committees.

At the local level.

The congregation elect a **Leadership Team** (elders) from their adult, male members. Presbyterian ministers are invited by the members of local pastoral charges to work in particular places. However, it is the Presbytery that actually installs ministers in the post and to whom ministers are answerable.

Ministers differ from elders usually in the amount of training they have undertaken, the fact that they normally work full time in the church spending the bulk of their time in preaching preparation and prayer.

Both ministers and elders take solemn vows affirming their commitment to the Bible, the church's doctrine, government and worship, and committing themselves to their particular ministries. Both are set aside to their work as a life-long activity and appointment. Both are charged from the Bible to set a good Christian example and to participate actively in the life of the church and government of the church (read 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus).

Members of our church commit to the CONNECT.GROW.SERVE. mission of our church. They are expected to give the Sunday meetings priority, be an active part of a Growth Group and to use their gifts, abilities and opportunities to serve the church and the community to the glory of God.

While the term 'minister' is used in the Presbyterian denomination to refer to the fulltime bloke, at EHPC we firmly hold to the Bible's teaching that the people are "", the elders are "" (Ephesians 4:11f).