

- that you are betraying your Baptist, Anglican, Brethren or whatever heritage.

In a sense this is the same as the previous statement. By becoming a communicant member of DPC you are simply indicating, in a slightly more formal way, your commitment to our local church family.

Hopefully that's answered at least some of your objections.

Let's now consider the positive side of communicant membership.

what membership IS...

Becoming a communicant member of DPC does mean: -

- that you can have a role in protecting the bible-centred ministry that you are currently enjoying.

Let's be clear. Any time that we need to replace or add ministers or elders it is only the communicant members that have a say in the decision making and selection process.

This system is good protection for our ministry direction but it does rely on Christians becoming communicant members.

So lets return to that earlier statement: -

If you are a Christian person who is committed to DPC then you ought to be a communicant member.

If you'd like to act on these things or ask some more questions then please contact one of the elders.

Dubbo Presbyterian Church



membership matters

***This is a leaflet explaining
membership within DPC***

church membership in the Bible

In the Bible God holds the local church in very high esteem.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1Cor 12.27 NIV)

Its therefore very important for Christians to be committed to gathering as a local church.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10.25 NIV)

Our gatherings provide opportunity to love one another & build each other up in maturity in Christ.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (1Cor 12.7 NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Heb 10.24 NIV)

According to God, to be a member in a local church is to be an active committed member of the family working hard at loving & serving.

membership within DPC

Within Presbyterian churches there are 2 types of membership within a local church.

- An **adherent member** is someone who calls DPC his or her church and associates regularly with us.
- A **communicant member** is someone who is a believer in the Lord Jesus, calls DPC his or her church and associates regularly with us.

There are 2 important differences between adherent and communicant membership: -

- Only a Christian person can be a communicant member.
- Only communicant members can have a role in determining whom the elders and ministers are within DPC.

When someone joins our church they are included on the roll as an adherent member.

An adherent member may become a communicant member by indicating their desire to do so & by demonstrating a genuine belief in the Lord Jesus.

The oversight of the roll lies with our elders.

If you are a Christian person who is committed to DPC then you ought to be a communicant member.

That last statement may raise some further questions.

Let's try and anticipate and answer such questions:-

what membership IS NOT...

Becoming a communicant member of DPC does not mean: -

- that somehow you become more Christian.

People enter God's kingdom by believing in Jesus Christ, relying on his death & resurrection on their behalf to make them right before God. You cannot add anything at all to that like baptism, special gifting, or membership of DPC.

- that you'll be treated differently.

Every person belonging to our church family is treated the same. Pastoral care within our church family is not dependent on membership.

- that you have to give a certain amount of money.

There is no membership fee in DPC. The amount of money that you contribute towards gospel ministry in the collection at church is between you & God.

- that for the rest of your life you have to go to Presbyterian churches.

Not true! You are formalising your belonging to our local church family more than joining the Presbyterian denomination. In fact if you ever have to leave Dubbo you will be encouraged to seek out a bible believing & teaching church. That is much more important than whether it is Presbyterian or not. At DPC we're growing Christians not Presbyterians.