



**SNOWDON BAPTIST CHURCH**

Where Jesus is LORD and  
all people are loved

## **Membership Guide Booklet**



# Église Baptiste de Snowdon ~ Snowdon Baptist Church

## *Membership Guide Booklet*

### **Welcome to Snowdon Baptist Church!**

We are delighted that the Lord has led you to explore becoming a member of our church. Whether you are new to our fellowship or you have attended for years, this booklet will guide you through the process of membership. Here you will discover our church's purpose, design and statement of faith, as well as what it means to commit to Snowdon Baptist through membership.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, you are joining an international-multicultural community of believers from around the world who are dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ and excited about what He is doing in peoples' lives. At Snowdon Baptist we are committed to **Loving our God through Worship, Following Christ in Community and Serving Christ in the world.**

At Snowdon we believe that God has chosen each member to walk together as his local church. Christ is joining and fitting us together as his local body, where we are growing toward maturity in Christ, supporting and encouraging one another, serving those around us and celebrating the joy of our life in Christ as we worship and seek our Heavenly Father's Glory and Honour.

We look forward to walking with you through this journey of life and faith.

In Christ,

Lead Pastor Brent Dunbar

# Snowdon Baptist Church - Our Purpose and Design

Founded on 10 October 1941, Snowdon Baptist Church has faithfully served Christ in this community, touching and shaping many different lives.

Throughout these years, our church has matured from generation to generation and our congregation now reflects the mosaic of many cultures and languages. As a local church, we are associated with over 500 Fellowship Evangelical Baptist Churches across Canada.

## Our Purpose

As a church, our purpose is to honour and serve our LORD as we worship, live with and serve Him. We are committed to God and the spreading of the good news about Jesus. Therefore, over the years we have developed a **church motto** and a **church mission statement**.

### **SBC Motto**

*Where Jesus is Lord and all people are loved*

Our **Motto** describes our church identity, that is, we worship the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and we love others through Him.

### **SBC Mission Statement:**

*The mission of Snowdon Baptist Church is to make fully devoted followers of Jesus of all peoples and to build a vibrant multicultural community of believers in Montreal.*

Our **Mission statement** describes the purpose of our church. This encapsulates the scope of our activities and our identity. This describes what we seek to be and to do, and, who we are as we serve Christ.

## Our Design

We have structured our church to fulfill our Motto and Mission statement by focusing on three areas - Worship, Discipleship and Outreach. We describe these areas as:

- Loving God through worship
- Following God in community
- Serving God in the world

Within these elements, we develop three vital relationships:

- Intimacy with God
- Community with fellow followers of Jesus
- Influence with future followers of Jesus

## Becoming a member of Snowdon Baptist Church

There are several requirements to join Snowdon as a member.

### 1. **Baptized believer**

In obedience to Christ as found in Matt 28:18-20, all followers (disciples) of Jesus are to publically demonstrate their faith by being baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. If you have not yet taken the step of Baptism, we regularly offer a four-week class on baptism after which we celebrate your baptism as a church during our Sunday morning worship.

### 2. **Testimony of faith in Christ**

Your faith story is important to us. How and when God led you to himself through the Saviour Jesus Christ is the greatest event in life. As you enter into the membership process, you will have the opportunity to share your continuing faith story.

### 3. **Transfer of membership from another church**

In some cases, as a baptised believer you are moving your membership from one church to Snowdon Baptist. So we ask for a letter from your previous church releasing you from their membership and stating that you were a member in good standing.

**4. Agreement with our statements of values and beliefs**

It is important that you know who you are joining. Therefore, we ask all our members to read our statements of values and beliefs. These should reflect your values and beliefs.

**5. Attending a membership Lifegroup**

We require all who desire membership to gather together for a four-week Lifegroup to explore the meaning of membership, to review the church's member covenant, to begin to build relationships with other believers, to worship God together in community and to discover ways in which God has gifted you for ministry.

*As you will learn, our members are active and involved in serving God, one another and others who are yet to follow Jesus Christ.*

**6. Reading and signing our Member's Church covenant**

All members will date and sign the member's covenant, which is included in this guide booklet. The purpose of the covenant is to outline our mutual commitments and responsibilities, provide accountability, and offer a means to evaluate your spiritual growth. The covenant is renewable every five years.

## **The next steps**

Once you have completed the above requirements, the following will happen: During a Sunday morning service or other church gathering, the church congregation will vote to affirm and welcome you into membership. If desired, you can receive offering envelopes for your tithes and gifts and/or give online. You will also be introduced to a person to assist you in your walk with Christ. As a church, we are committed to seeing each disciple grow to maturity in faith.

*If you have any questions, please talk to one of our leaders.*

*We pray that together we will share our journeys of faith in Christ Jesus all to the glory and honour of God.*

# **Snowdon Baptist Church**

## **Our values and beliefs**

### **Our Values**

We believe that the following values represent what our church is committed to and that these values drive our ministry. Our desire is that these values will help interested people know who we are and that these same values will have a unifying and encouraging effect among us.

#### **1. The Bible**

The Bible is God's inspired word. It is our primary source of authority in all matters of faith and practice. Therefore, we strive to proclaim, teach and submit to its sacred content. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

#### **2. Worship**

We strive for excellence in all aspects of our corporate worship in order to glorify God. This means a commitment to high quality in everything from music to preaching. (Acts 2:46-47)

#### **3. Evangelism**

Because we have experienced the saving grace of God, we strive through varied means to let others know how they can experience it too. We are committed to world missions and raising the awareness of how the Gospel is spreading around the world. (1 John 3:18, 1 Timothy 2:3-6)

#### **4. A Multicultural Community**

We celebrate the diversity of peoples meeting here who enjoy unity in the Lord Jesus Christ and so we strive to care for each person with respect to their culture. (John 3:16, Acts 6)

## **5. Discipleship**

We strive to equip each believer to exercise his or her spiritual gifts and to fulfill their God-given ministry. (Ephesians 4:12, Matthew 28:18-20)

## **6. Servant Leadership**

We seek leaders who are themselves devoted followers of Christ; leading by example and demonstrating the servant attitude of Jesus. (2 Timothy 2:2)

## **7. Family**

We strive for a ministry that supports and builds up the family according to God's design from creation, in order to produce committed husbands and wives, wise parents, godly children and devout singles. (Psalm 127)

## **8. Commitment**

God has prepared good works for us to do. Therefore, we strive to be faithful servants in the handling of our time, money and resources. (Galatians 6:9-10, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Matthew 25:21)

## **9. A Life of Humility and Joy**

We believe God intends for the believers' life to be one of humility and joy. The life of faith is to be enjoyed. (Psalm 131, Romans 8:28)

## **Our Beliefs**

Snowdon Baptist church in concert with Fellowship Evangelical Baptist Churches across Canada shares and is committed to the following core beliefs. The following Belief Statement, or Affirmation of Faith, is a declaration of the truths that unite us in ministry.

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we affirm the following as a summary of what we believe to be basic truths about God and His works.

### **1. The Bible**

We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God; that the sixty-six books, as originally written, comprising the Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and were entirely free from error; that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the true basis of Christian union.

### **2. God**

We believe in one God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal, existing in three equal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

### **3. Jesus Christ**

We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ, in His eternal existence with the Father in pre-incarnate glory, in His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, triumphant ascension, mediatorial ministry and personal return.

### **4. The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the absolute and essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit Who convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; Who regenerates, sanctifies, illuminates and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ.

## **5. Satan**

We believe that Satan exists as an evil personality, the originator of sin, the archenemy of God and man.

## **6. Man**

We believe that man was divinely created in the image of God; that he sinned, becoming guilty before God, resulting in total depravity, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death.

## **7. Salvation**

We believe that salvation is by the sovereign, electing grace of God; that by the appointment of the Father, Christ voluntarily suffered a vicarious, expiatory and propitiatory death; that justification is by faith alone in the all-sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that those whom God has effectually called shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord.

## **8. Future Things**

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and in the judgment and conscious, eternal punishment of the wicked.

## **9. The Local Church**

We believe that a church is a company of immersed believers, called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith and the observance of the ordinances. We believe it is a sovereign, independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Christ, the Great Head of the church. We believe that its officers are pastors and deacons.

## **10. Ordinances**

We believe that there are only two ordinances for the church regularly observed in the New Testament in the following order:

- Baptism, which is the immersion of a believer in water, is when a person obeys Christ's command and declares their identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.
- The Lord's Supper, which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, bread and wine, which symbolize the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes.

## **11. The Church and State**

We believe in the entire separation of church and state.

## **12. Religious Liberty**

We believe in religious liberty; that every man has the right to practise and propagate his beliefs.

## **13. The Lord's Day**

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day and that, in a special sense, it is the divinely appointed day for worship and spiritual exercise.

## **14. Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

## Church Covenant for Members

Having, as we trust, been brought by Divine Grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with each other.

We will share the responsibility of our church

- ... by praying for its growth (1 Thessalonians 1:1-2)
- ... by inviting the unchurched to attend (Luke 14:23)
- ... by warmly welcoming those who visit (Romans 15:7)
- ... by helping each other grow in our faith (Galatians 6:1)

We will serve the ministry of our church

- ... by discovering our gifts and talents (1 Peter 4:10)
- ... by developing a servant's heart (Philippians 2:3-4:7)
- ... by being equipped to serve (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- ... by faithfully attending and participating (Hebrews 10:25)
- ... by giving regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2)

We will protect the unity of our church

- ... by acting in love toward other members (Romans 14:19)
- ... by refusing to gossip (Ephesians 4:29)
- ... by having confidence in and praying for the leaders (Hebrews 13:17)

We will support the testimony of our church

- ... by living a godly life (Philippians 1:27)
- ... by serving our community (Matthew 25:35; James 2:17)
- ... by committing to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

