

Considering Membership at Dickson Baptist Church



**To be and make disciples of Jesus, in a loving church,
in our local community and beyond**

Welcome to Dickson Baptist Church.

The purpose of this booklet is to help you prayerfully decide whether you would like to formally become a member of Dickson Baptist Church. We hope it helps you understand who we are, what we believe, and what our mission is as a church. We hope and pray that you are willing to grow, serve and reach out with us.

This booklet is designed to accompany a series of videos which can be found on the 'Membership' page, under the 'Resources' tab at the top of the DBC website. You can scan the QR code below to access the videos:



There are also three documents referred to in the videos which can be found in the appendices of this booklet:

- Dickson Baptist's Covenant of Care
- Dickson Baptist's Statement of Beliefs
- Dickson Baptist Leadership's Stance Regarding Sex, Sexuality, Worship and Ministry

Please read over these documents as you watch the videos and decide if you would like to formally become a member of Dickson Baptist Church.

To help you consider membership at Dickson Baptist, in this booklet and the accompanying videos we will first look at what membership means, and then focus on four key areas of DBC: beliefs, mission, discipleship and community. We've also included some information about the church's leadership and administration.

If you would like to become a member of Dickson Baptist Church, the next step is to fill in the online form on the 'Considering Membership' page of our website, and someone from DBC's leadership will get in touch about next steps.

What do we mean by membership?

An important concept in Baptist thought is the idea that Jesus is the head of the church. He gathers a group of believing people into a local church that covenant together to follow Him.

This is different to membership in a political party (which is about representation and power) or membership in a club (which is about paying dues to be served by others). Rather, we are members (limbs) of a body that has Christ as its head.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, Paul writes to a local church and says:

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ And so the body is not made up of one part but of many...

He goes on to say in verse 27:

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Being a part of a local church is a great privilege, but it also carries responsibilities and commitments as God calls us to worship and serve alongside one another.

At the heart of membership is the idea that a group of believers commit to follow Jesus together. We gather to follow Him and discern His will together. One way we do this at DBC is to have **quarterly meetings** where members hear about the ministries of the church, vote on any future directions, and where we focus on the mission of DBC together.

We also practice an **open membership** at DBC. This means we welcome into membership those who give evidence of a sincere profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and agree to hold to the doctrines referred to in the Church's Statement of Beliefs. As a Baptist church we teach and practice believer's baptism, but we welcome into membership those who have grown up in other church traditions and are happy to support Baptist teaching and practice.

Beliefs

As followers of Jesus, we want the gospel to shape our beliefs, mission, discipleship, and community.

Paul explains the gospel in Colossians 1:21-23:

“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your mind because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard...”

We want Dickson Baptist to be a place where people can explore the gospel and respond to Jesus in repentance and faith.

It may be that you haven’t yet become a follower of Jesus. If so, we would encourage you not to explore membership, but to explore Jesus instead. We would love to help you consider faith in Jesus, so please talk to one of our leaders about how we can help you.

If you have put your faith in Jesus and are committed to follow him together at DBC, we would love for you to become a member. The first thing to consider is the beliefs that we share as a church. We are a community of faith, and that means that we have beliefs that we confess and live out together. It is an expectation of membership that you are committed to those beliefs.

In the appendix of this booklet, you will find our statement of beliefs as well as a statement that the church leadership have put together about sex and sexuality.

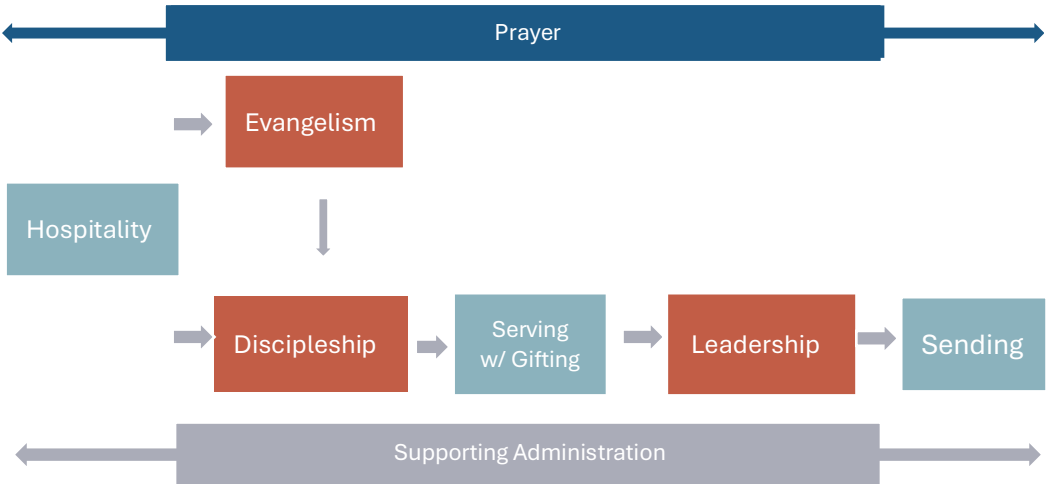
Please read over both statements and consider what you believe. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to one of our leaders if you want to ask any questions, or if you need further clarification.

Mission and Pathway

Our **mission** as a church is:

“To be and make disciples of Jesus, in a loving church, in our local community and beyond.”

As we work towards this mission, we want to move people along a **pathway** of becoming and then growing as disciples of Jesus. Below is a helpful way to think about how we are trying to help people come to know Jesus, grow in faith in him, and be empowered to be a part of the mission:



Prayer

At Dickson Baptist we believe in prayer. We believe that for us to make any progress on the mission that God has called us to, we need his presence and his power. Simply put, we cannot do without prayer.

Hospitality

We show hospitality to others because Jesus extended His gracious, welcoming hospitality to us. For many people they first come to know of Jesus through the generous hospitality of his people.

Evangelism

We believe that salvation is only found in Jesus, and that people need to respond to him. While God has given some people a particular gift in evangelism, it is the call to every believer to share their faith as God enables them.

Discipleship

Jesus commanded his followers to make disciples. We give opportunities for everyone who attends Dickson Baptist to be encouraged and challenged to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

Serving with Gifting

God has made each of us unique in the gifts, talents and personality that he has given us. We want to encourage you to discover the ways that you are gifted to serve, and to use those gifts to serve God.

Leadership

For the ministry of DBC to grow there is a need for us to identify, train and raise up others into leadership. We want to be actively training people in leadership so that our ministry can flourish and grow. You will find more information about our leadership later in this booklet.

Sending

We know that God's mission is bigger than our church, so we want to be active in raising up people who can be a part of starting new churches and new ministries in Canberra and beyond.

Supporting Administration

Administration is a vital task that keeps the ministry of DBC running smoothly. You will find more information about the administration of DBC later in this booklet.

Supporting the Mission of DBC

There are a couple of commitments that we ask of members in our covenant of care:

Giving and Generosity

We ask our members to please commit to giving generously to DBC. Giving financially is an act of worship, an expression of our trust in Jesus to provide, and an act of thanks for all that Jesus has done for us. The financial resources that we have as a congregation are an important tool for our ministry together. They allow us to employ people for ministry, provide resources for our ministry, support global mission efforts in other countries, and maintain facilities that allow our ministry to function well.

We encourage everyone to give generously to fund and grow the ministry. The easiest way to give is to set up a regular electronic transfer into the church operating account.

Donations can be made on the church website, or using the bank details below:

Bank: ANZ

Account Name: Baptist Memorial Church

BSB: 012-955

Account No 465842304

Serving at DBC

We also ask our members to please commit to serving at DBC. Each of us is called to a life of service, using our gifts and skills to honour God, and bless others. There are several ministry teams and many other ways of serving at Dickson Baptist. We also recognise that there are people who are gifted and called to serve the body of Christ outside the ministry of Dickson Baptist, which we also want to honour and bless their service.

If you are not sure where or how to serve, talk to one of our leaders about where you might be gifted and where there is an opportunity for you to bless the body.

Discipleship

Jesus commanded his followers to make disciples. The word disciple means ‘student’ or ‘follower’. It is helpful to think of discipleship as being a lifelong apprentice to Jesus, learning His ways. Being a disciple of Jesus involves learning to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. It is also a costly process of repentance from sin and growing in grace.

Jesus said in Mark 8:

‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.’

We hope that everyone who attends Dickson Baptist is encouraged and challenged to grow as a disciple of Jesus. We know that it isn’t a journey that we can travel alone.

Basic Foundations

Being a disciple of Jesus involves every aspect of our lives, but there are three principal ways that we grow as disciples:

We commit ourselves to regularly read the Bible,
We commit ourselves regularly to prayer, and
We commit to worship and follow Jesus in relationship with other Christians.

While there are many other beliefs, practices and habits which shape us as disciples of Jesus, these three commitments of word, prayer and community give a great foundation from which to recognise and repent of sin and grow in God’s grace. If you haven’t already, we would encourage you to develop intentional habits of word, prayer and community that help you grow.

At Dickson Baptist, there are a number of ways we give opportunities to and encourage people to grow as disciples of Jesus:

Firstly, we encourage everyone to **regularly attend worship** at Dickson Baptist on a Sunday. This is where we gather to hear God’s word, pray together, sing together and celebrate the Lord’s supper. Our Sunday gatherings are part of a weekly rhythm of worship that helps us all to grow.

Secondly, we encourage people to **gather in smaller groups** for more personal encouragement and growth. We have **Connect Groups** at DBC which meet throughout the week. These groups provide a more personal way to encourage one another in faith as we read, pray and love one another.

We also encourage members to form **Triplets** with a couple of other people to meet week by week. These triplets can be much more flexible around people's work and home commitments and can provide much deeper discipleship in a relational context.

Thirdly, we have some ministries designed to help disciple people at a certain stage of life. Our **Dickson Kids** ministry meets on a Sunday during the morning service and aims to help our children grow as disciples. This is a partnership with our families who are seeking to raise their children to know and love Jesus.

There are also **youth ministries** for young people that run throughout the week so that teenagers and young adults can have a space in which to wrestle with faith, ask questions, and grow into mature disciples of Jesus.

Before moving on, take some time to reflect:

What are the rhythms of faith and worship that you have which help you to grow?

Who are the people who know you and are encouraging you in your faith?

Who are the people that you are investing in so they can grow as a disciple of Jesus?

Community

In our mission statement it says that we are to be and make disciples of Jesus ‘in a loving church’.

This reminds us of what Jesus taught in Mark 12:30-31:

³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” ³¹ The second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.’

Jesus shows us that though God is to be first in our lives, we can’t separate our worship of God from how we love our neighbour.

A key document for our congregation is our Covenant of Care (in the appendix of this booklet). It represents our commitment to be in a loving community and spells out the responsibilities we have to one another.

It isn’t always easy to live in community, and part of our love for one another is shown in our commitment to be reconciled to one another when there are conflicts.

Jesus teaches us in Matthew 5:23-24:

²³ ‘Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

When there are conflicts in our church community, we seek to reconcile them in a God-honouring and respectful way.

We pray and hope for a community where people experience the love and the grace of God. But communities of love and grace can only exist where there are appropriate boundaries. One of the ways that we love one another is by exercising care and discipline.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to repent of sin and turn to him, living holy lives by his grace. This doesn’t come naturally for any of us, and it is often through growing closer to other Christians and learning together from God’s word that our sin comes to light.

When we do sin and fall short (and we all do), we are called to repent of sin and receive forgiveness and grace. As brothers and sisters in Christ, it is our responsibility to lovingly, and patiently, correct one another so that we can all grow in holiness and faith.

Jesus outlines in Matthew 18 a process for addressing sin with one another:

¹⁵ ‘If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that “every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

It is important to note that the goal of such discipline is always repentance, forgiveness and restoration. As Jesus indicates, there are unfortunately times where people are unwilling to repent and change their behaviour. In our constitution there are provisions for people like this to be removed from membership after a period of prayer, investigation, and counsel. This is never done lightly, and it is always done with the good of the person in mind, that they might come to repentance, forgiveness and restoration.

As you consider membership at Dickson Baptist please understand that there are times when we are called to lovingly receive correction. There are times we are called to lovingly give correction. There are also times when efforts at correction are not received, and people need to be removed from membership - and potentially fellowship - for the spiritual wellbeing of others.

We pray that Dickson Baptist Church grows as a loving community. That the love we receive from God is expressed and offered to those around us.

Would you commit to building that kind of community alongside your brothers and sisters here?

Leadership and Administration

Leadership at Dickson Baptist

Leadership in the church is a vital ministry. From the earliest days of the church, godly and faithful people have been appointed to serve the church in leadership. The Bible teaches that leadership is an act of service and requires that leaders have a godly and faithful character.

The ministry at DBC is led by a leadership team made up of Pastors and Elders. Both Pastors and Elders are appointed by the congregation to shepherd the congregation in spiritual welfare and direction.

Currently we have one pastor (Pastor Matt Glowacki), and one elder (Rob Bampton).

In 2024, DBC appointed Heidi Wood to serve as our Associate Minister. She has responsibility to lead our youth ministry, is involved in the preaching ministry of the church, and helps lead the evening congregation alongside Pastor Matt.

There are also other leaders who are appointed to give leadership and direction to the various ministries of our church:

- Dickson Kids Ministry Leader (Lyn Lisacek)
- Mainly Music Ministry Leader (Azelia Glowacki)
- Music Ministry Leader (Nat Currey)

Administration at Dickson Baptist Church

The administration of DBC is a vital task that keeps the ministry running smoothly. We work hard to keep policies and procedures up to date to make sure things are done smoothly and well, and that we are compliant with any regulations.

Bron Clayton is employed 20 hours a week to manage our office. Any administration enquires can be directed to her at office@dicksonbaptist.org.au.

Most of the administrative decisions are made by our Deacons, who meet monthly to make sure the property is maintained, payments and budgets are administered, and the WHS and other policies are implemented.

Our deacons are Tim Williams (Treasurer), Tim Kuffer (Property Manager), Sue Young, and Elissa Steel.

Safe Spaces Policies

DBC is committed to providing places, services and programs that promote physical, emotional and spiritual health and safety, and model the love of Christ to all whom we have contact with - particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The DBC Safe Church Policy can be summarised as:

- Safe recruitment of leaders
- Adequate training of leaders
- Continued supervision of leaders
- Diligent response to reports of harm
- Safe environments in ministry programs

More detail about our Safe Church Policy can be found on the “About Us - Documents and Policies” page on the Dickson Baptist website.

If you have any Safe Church concerns, please contact a member of the DBC Safe Church Team:

Sue Young: 0432 681 457

Rob Bampton: 0427 964 834

Bronwyn Clayton: 0414 759 575

Baptist Association Standards Hotline: 1300 647 780

Appendices

Appendix 1: Dickson Baptist Covenant of Care

Responsibility to the Pastors and Leaders

I will prayerfully uphold, respect and support the pastors and leaders whom God has called and the church has recognised to lead this fellowship at Dickson.

Responsibility to the Church

I will prayerfully and cooperatively seek God's will for his household at Dickson;

I will commit to grow in my relationship with Jesus, to be obedient to God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit upon my conscience;

I will steward the resources God has given me; invest my time, develop and use my skills, and be generous with my finances;

I will embrace and engage with the mission of Dickson Church, together with the church community;

I will be actively involved in a ministry of the church (body of Christ), as members of a relational family

I will intentionally protect the unity and peace of God's household, to bring honour and glory to him.

Responsibility to One another

I will respect and value every person in God's household at Dickson, regardless of gifting, age or maturity;

I will cooperate with and support a culture of peace in relationships within the church family, as a Gospel witness to those inside and outside of the household;

I will support and spur on the believers in God's household at Dickson with the aim to bring out their best to the glory of God, and encourage them on their journey;

I will as a part of community, selflessly sacrifice to others, seeking to meet their practical and spiritual needs;

I will use the gifts God has given me for the building up of others.

Appendix 2: Statement of Beliefs

(As approved by the 1979 Assembly of the Baptist Union of Australia)

The Nature and Unity of the Godhead

There is one God Who is eternal personal Spirit. He is infinite in power, wisdom, holiness and love. He is Triune in essential being and revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Deity and Humanity of Christ

Jesus Christ as the second Person of the Godhead is eternally one with God the Father of Whose Person and glory He is the accurate expression. To become man He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, so that two whole and perfect natures, the nature of God and the nature of man, were united in one Person; truly God and truly man.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit as the third Person of the Trinity is eternally one with the Father and the Son yet He is sent by Them to achieve the Divine purpose in the world and in the Church.

The Divine Inspiration of the Scriptures

The Scriptures, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, are the infallible Word of God. They were written by holy men of God inspired by the Holy Spirit and have supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

The Sinfulness of Man

Man was made in the image of God and for fellowship with Him. By transgression of God's command he fell from fellowship with God and his nature was corrupted. As a consequence, all men are spiritually dead under Satan's dominion and control and subject to God's wrath and condemnation. Therefore, apart from God's grace, man is helpless and hopeless.

Christ's Atonement for the Sin of Man

In order to redeem mankind from the guilt, penalty and power of sin, Jesus Christ became man and died a sacrificial death as our representative substitute. By His resurrection, God's acceptance of His atoning death was demonstrated. This atonement is sufficient for the whole world but effective only in those who receive it. The sinner is justified and reconciled to God, not through any personal merit but solely on the basis of God's gracious gift of salvation in Jesus Christ received through faith.

The Work of the Holy Spirit in Salvation

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is necessary for the acceptance of God's provision of salvation. The Holy Spirit convicts sinners of their sinfulness, leads them to personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and so brings them to spiritual birth as God's children and to fellowship in Christ. Working within the life of believers the Holy Spirit makes real the presence of Christ, witnesses to their relationship with God, leads into all truth, bestows gifts for effective service and produces grace for holy living.

The Church

The Church is the body of people whom God has separated from the world through faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. All regenerate persons are members of the universal Church of God which takes local form wherever groups of believers unite for worship, fellowship and service in accordance with scriptural principles. All believers are called to priestly ministry in the offering of spiritual sacrifices and sent into the world to be witnesses. God calls individuals to positions of oversight and leadership or to special ministries. The Church recognises such by ordaining pastors, commissioning missionaries, appointing deacons and other leaders, following New Testament practice.

The Baptism of Believers Only, by Immersion

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a public declaration of a person's faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In accordance with New Testament Scripture it should be administered only by total immersion which symbolises the believer's identification with Christ in death, burial and resurrection, the remission of sins and the believer's dedication of himself to God to live and walk in newness of life.

The Communion

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus Christ, instituted by Him to be celebrated with the elements of bread and wine by believers in Christ until the end of the age. It commemorates and declares our thanks for the Lord's substitutionary death. The celebration of the ordinance expresses our fellowship with and in the Lord Jesus Christ as members of the Body of which He is the Head.

The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ

At the end of this age, according to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in His glory to the earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom of God awaits His return.

The Resurrection of the Dead

At the end of the age, there is to be a resurrection both of the righteous and the unrighteous. After death the bodies of men return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God - the righteous to be with Him and the unrighteous to be reserved for the punishment.

Rewards and Punishments in a Future State

God has appointed a day of final judgement for the world. At that time Jesus Christ will judge every man and each will receive reward or punishment according to his deeds. Those judged righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment.

Appendix 3: Leadership Stance Regarding Sex, Sexuality, Worship and Ministry

We at Dickson Baptist Church (DBC) want to be a Christian community that is faithful to Jesus Christ, and welcoming and respectful of people who do not share our beliefs and practices. There is a difference between the Christian view of sexual ethics, and the view of the wider Australian community. This document aims to give clarity to how we relate to people who do not share our belief in the Christian, biblical sexual ethic.

The foundation of our faith is that God so loved the world that he sent his Son Jesus Christ to redeem us from our sin. Central to Christian ethics is Jesus' command to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:29-30). We recognise that love involves obedience to God and encouraging one another to obey Him as well (John 14:23-24; Hebrews 10:23-27).

The Christian, biblical sexual ethic can be summarised as follows:

“...sexual intimacy is a gift of God for the relationship of a husband and wife, and such intimacy is to be exercised with love, grace and fidelity. Those not in a husband-wife relationship are called to celibacy.”¹

This is based on God's design for relationships in creation, Jesus' affirmation of that design, the teaching that marriage is a reflection of Christ and the church, and the commands in scripture regarding sexual ethics (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-25; Matthew 19:3-6; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, 7:2-5; Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 5:21-33). This is the sexual ethic that we teach and seek to uphold at DBC.

We expect that there are people who participate with us in corporate worship, and who are exploring the Christian faith, who do not uphold or accept this ethic. Our desire is to welcome, love and respect all people, and to be faithful in following the ethical commands that we are given by God.

In view of this:

1. All people are invited and are welcome to come and attend DBC, whether or not they confess our beliefs, provided they do so peaceably. We do not expect people to share our beliefs or ethical standards before they attend DBC, recognising that some people come to faith by first experiencing the hospitality and observing the worship of the community of God, and then growing to believe in the Christian faith. (John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47)

¹ This definition is taken from the Baptist Association Public Issue Paper: 'Pastoral and Missional Responses to Same-Sex Oriented Persons'

2. We encourage all people at DBC to hold to the sexual ethic outlined above, believing that it is the design of God for our flourishing. We will encourage all who are married to practice fidelity, and to treat their partner with tenderness, kindness, and intimacy in life in general and in their sexual relationship. We will encourage those who are not married to practice celibacy, and to build wholesome, tender, kind, and intimate friendships. (1 Corinthians 7; 1 Timothy 5:1-2; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 4:7-10)
3. We will remember the many challenges to godly sexual relationships that exist in our culture, including promiscuity, adultery, and pornography. We will actively promote a culture in which godliness is upheld and we are supportive of one another as we strive to resist temptation and cultivate godliness. (Matthew 5:27-30; Rom 13:8-14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, 7:2, 8-9; Hebrews 13:1-8)
4. The call of the gospel to everyone comes with the expectation of self-denial and obedience. For everyone this involves repentance and turning away from ungodly behaviour including idolatry, greed, slander, drunkenness, theft and sexual immorality. We affirm that everyone is called to repentance, no matter what sins they are tempted by. (Matthew 7:1-5; Mark 1:14-15; 8:34-38; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Colossians 3:1-14)
5. We will exercise grace, love and understanding when people give into temptation. When people have fallen short of the Christian biblical sexual ethic we will, as with other sin, lovingly call them to repentance, listen to their feelings, and recognise that repentance can take time. (Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:25-26; James 5:16, 19-20)
6. We desire to give people space to explore the Christian faith, and believe that responding in faith requires repentance from sin and obedience to God and his word, empowered by the Holy Spirit. While we make room for differences among believers, we recognise that sexual ethics impacts upon a person's salvation (Ephesians 5:3-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8). If people have searched the scriptures, come to different conclusions about sexual ethics, and engage in conduct that is inconsistent with the sexual ethic above, we will respectfully ask them to leave the fellowship of DBC. We will do this in order to preserve the unity and faithfulness of the church community. (1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Jude 3-4; Revelation 2:12-16, 18-23)
7. While homosexual activity and any form of lust is prohibited by God and is sin (Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Colossians 3:5-6; 1 Timothy 1:8-11), we recognise that people with a same-sex orientation can live sexually pure lives. We recognise that while all believers are called to sexual purity, this does not require that a person's sexual orientation change. We will not lead same-sex oriented people to believe that their orientation is shameful. (Romans 5:1-5, 8:1-4; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 4:14-16)

8. We recognise that faithfulness to a biblical sexual ethic is costly and difficult, especially for those who are sexually attracted to people of the same sex. We will do our best to be a community where all people can be supported in loneliness and temptation, and where all people can experience the intimacy and fellowship of Christian community. (Luke 18:29-30, Romans 12:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Galatians 6:2)
9. While we welcome all to attend DBC, we do expect those who serve and lead to uphold the sexual ethic above as one of our shared beliefs. This means that those who do not agree with the Christian biblical sexual ethic above are not able to serve, lead, or become members of DBC. We recognise that this may involve lovingly asking someone to step out of a position that they have held previously, or lovingly telling someone they may not serve in ministry at DBC (Romans 16:17-19; Ephesians 4:17-24, 5:3-7; 1 Tim 1:3-7)
10. As Christians we are commanded by Jesus to love all people, regardless of their sins and imperfections. As a church we seek to treat all people with love and respect (Matthew 5:43-48; Matthew 22:36-40; John 13:34-35; Colossians 4:5-6). Attitudes and behaviours that are insensitive or bigoted will not be tolerated in our Church community.

While it is difficult to create a policy that adequately addresses such a pastorally sensitive topic, we seek to be guided by the gospel. In the gospel God offers all people forgiveness when they repent and follow Jesus in obedience. In the gospel, God brings people into fellowship in the people of God. In the gospel all people are promised the Holy Spirit to empower them to live lives of obedience to God.

This gospel is the foundation of our church. It is good news, and we offer it freely to all people.