



"Worship God, Win the Lost, Nourish the Found."

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Our Story, Mission, Values
&
Commitments of Membership

Welcome

Welcome to People's Worship Centre! I am so delighted about the Lord Jesus and what He can do in lives today. He changes lives! He changes things! I am also excited about the local church, His chosen Bride, the family of God. PWC is a body of born-again believers whose lives have been changed by the Lord Jesus and are now seeking to follow Him.

It is wonderful that you have decided to be a part of this wonderful family of God. Congratulations! Whether you are a new believer, someone who is returning to faith or moving into the area from another church, we welcome you.

This booklet is meant to provide information so you can make an informed decision to be a part of this fellowship. It lays out our history, denominational ties, beliefs (doctrines), practices, and expectation of members. As the pastor, I want to be as transparent as possible and provide a standard document, so we are all on the 'same page.'

This booklet is a required reading for all members prior to our membership class. As you read, please write out any questions you have so we can discuss them.

History: In the 1980s, Scarborough Tabernacle occupied the spot we call home today. However, the membership was dwindling. Reverend Haitram and Sister Shirley Samaroo were invited to move to Canada and assume the pastorate in 1988. They began with one member, Sister Eunice Davis, and labored to build this church. One day a realtor came by and asked, 'Is this church for sale?' He replied, "Madam, we don't sell churches. We build them!" The church building was renovated in 2000 to the current beautiful structure we have. Pastor Michael Ali assumed leadership in January 2018.

Denomination: We are affiliated with the Pentecostal Holiness Church of Canada. Being a part of a larger denomination allows for oversight and accountability.

Goal: Go and make disciples of all nations.

Mission: "Worship God, Win the Lost Nourish the Found."

It is based on two scriptures:

- **The Great Commandment:** "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt. 22:36-40)
- **The Great Commission:** "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19-20)
 - To "Love God with all your heart" is "WORSHIP".
 - To "Love your neighbor as yourself" is "MINISTRY".
 - To "Go...make disciples" is "EVANGELISM".
 - To "Baptize..." is to "INCORPORATE INTO FELLOWSHIP".
 - To "Teach them...all things" is "DISCIPLESHIP".

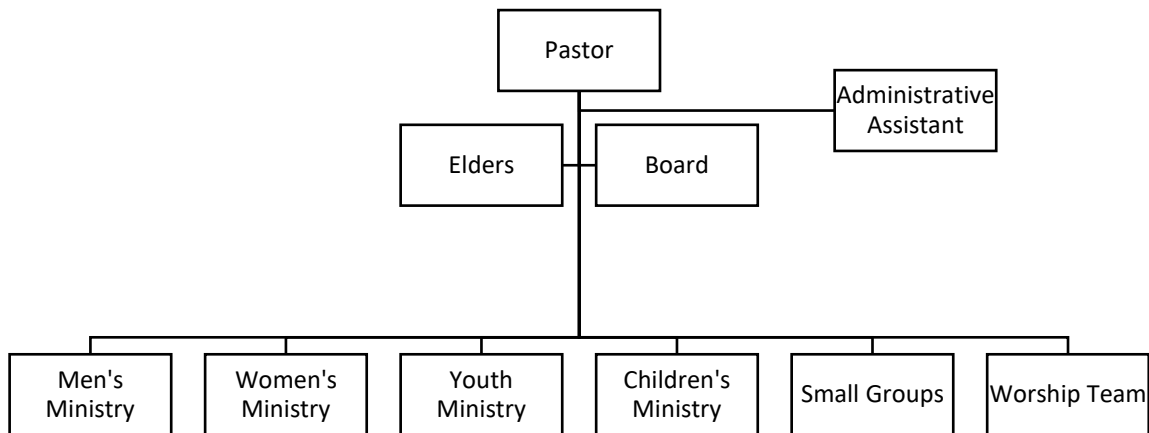
Vision: The vision of People's Worship Centre is to create a community of disciples of Jesus and to witness our neighborhood transformed by the power of the gospel.

Values:

- The authentic worship of God
- The authority of Scripture
- Winning the lost
- Love and respect for everyone
- A lifestyle of righteousness
- The rich fellowship of believers
- Unity in the body of Christ
- The spiritual growth of believers

The pastor: Rev. Dr. Michael Ali pastored Family Worship Centre, an Assembly of God church in Guyana for seven years before he moved to Canada in 2004 to further his medical career. He assumed the pastorate in 2018 and also works as a family physician with the Oshawa Clinic at the Courtice location. Pastor Mike is married to Sherry and has three sons, Joshua, Josiah, and Joel.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

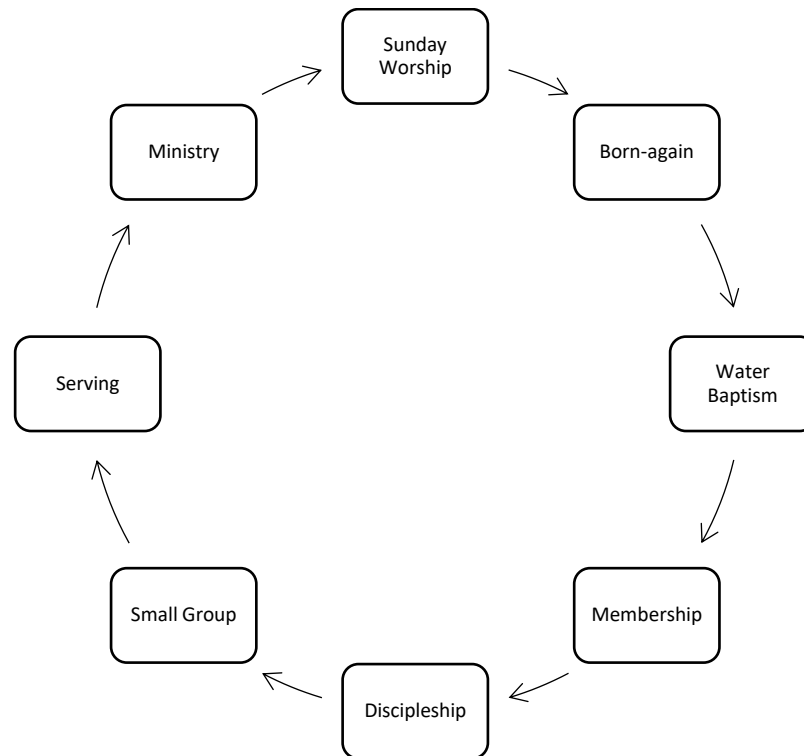


How we operate

1. We are a family, so we operate on the basis of relationships, not rules.
2. We are a fellowship, so we focus on what unifies us.
3. We are a body, not a business, so we serve each other according to our SHAPE.
4. We are a flock, so we are cared for and led by shepherds, called pastors.
 - a. The Lead Pastor casts the vision for where PWC is headed.
 - b. He oversees the administration and operations of the church.
 - c. He works along with the church board.
 - d. We empower people to lead according to their spiritual

Our Strategy

Our plan is that through personal evangelism and invitation, relatives and friends will join us for a great worship experience on Sundays. Their lives will be so impacted by the power of God that they decide to make Jesus Lord of their lives and follow Him. They will be disciplined in the faith and connect with other believers in a small group. The final step is being involved in ministry, serving in some capacity in the local church.



There are three classes designed to propel you through the process:

- The Baptism Class
- The Membership Class
- The Purple Book

Criteria for membership

To become a member, one must:

- Be born-again
- Be water baptized
- Agree with the doctrine (teachings) and practice of the church
- Abide by the commitments stated below

OUR DOCTRINE

We believe that:

1. **The Bible is the inspired Word of God.** It is without error and bears authority over our lives. It is the full revelation of God's redemption plan for mankind. [2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Psalm 119:105; 12:6; Proverbs 30:5]
2. There is **one true God** who is eternal, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness, the Creator and Preserver of all things. The God of the Bible **exists as three persons**, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and each person is fully God and there is one God. [Genesis 1:1,26,27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14]
3. The **Lord Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man.** He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life. He suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried to reconcile us to the Father. By his death, He paid the full price for all our sins. [Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13]
4. **Christ rose from the dead** and ascended into heaven and there sits until He shall return to judge all men at the last day.
5. **The Holy Spirit is co-equal** with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily. [2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18]
6. **Man was created** in the likeness and image of God, but sin has separated him from a good, loving God. [Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2]
7. **Salvation from sin** is provided freely for all mankind by the death of Jesus. Those who are saved from sin will inherit eternal life. The evidence of salvation is the **born-again experience**. Salvation is not by works. [Jn. 3:3, Eph. 2:8,9]
8. There will be a **final judgment** in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life will be consigned to the everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. [John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Cor. 2:7-9]
9. **Sanctification** is the process by which the believer is delivered from the power of sin and made holy before God. It is both instantaneous and progressive. It is pursued by the life-long growth in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [(2 Corinthians 4:16; 2 Peter 3:18)]
10. The **Pentecostal baptism of the Holy Spirit** is available to every believer and that the initial evidence of this experience is speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. [Acts 1:5; 2:14, 8-17; 10:44-46; 19:6]
11. **Divine healing** is included in the atonement of Christ. [Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:14-18; James 5:14-16; Exodus 15:26]
12. The Lord Jesus Christ will soon return for His church and judge the world. He will usher us into a new heaven and new earth. [1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 3:1-4]
13. It is the responsibility of every believer to dedicate his life to carrying out the work of the **Great Commission**. [Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8]

NINE (9) COMMITMENTS OF A MEMBER

COMMITMENT #1 – I WILL FOLLOW JESUS AS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.

Most people live their whole lives without every knowing why. We believe God has made it clear what his purpose for our lives is.

1. God made you to love you! (Jeremiah 31:3, Ephesians 1:4-5)
2. God wants to have a personal relationship with you. (John 10:10)
3. You have sinned and lived your life apart from God's rule. (Isaiah 53:6)
4. Jesus has paid for your sins with his death and resurrection. (Romans 5:8)

1 Timothy 2:5 *“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”*

What does God expect me to do in response to what he has done for me?

1. Admit that God has not been first place in your life.
2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and rose again. (Romans 10:9)
3. Accept God's free gift of salvation. (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment:

“Dear God, thank you for loving me even when I've ignored you and have gone my own way. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, into the world to die on the cross for me. I am sorry for my sins and I ask you to forgive me. Please help me to understand you more. I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life. I accept your free gift of salvation. – Amen!”

COMMITMENT #2 – I WILL BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION IN WATER

The first big step of obedience every new believer in Jesus should take is being baptized by immersion in water.

Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus. (Mark 1:9)
2. Because Jesus commands it. (Matthew 28:19-20)
3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer. (Acts 18:8, 1 John 2:3)

What does baptism mean?

1. It illustrates Christ's death and resurrection. (Colossians 2:12)
2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian. (Romans 6:4)

Why baptism by immersion?

1. Jesus was baptized that way. (Matthew 3:16)
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion. (Acts 8:38-39)
3. The Greek word *baptizo* means to dip under water.
4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

We believe that everyone who has personally received Christ should be baptized after receiving him. We speak honorably of the commitment parents make when they have their children baptized, but we see it as similar to child dedication. So, we ask that those who were baptized only as infants to be baptized as believers.

Communion (The Lord's Supper)

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death.

These two ordinances are: **Baptism** and **The Lord's Supper**. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers. According to 1 Corinthians 11:23-26...

What is the Lord's Supper?

1. It is a simple act. (v. 23)
2. It is a reminder. (v. 24)
3. It is a symbol. (v. 25)
4. It is a statement of faith. (v. 26)

Who should take the Lord's Supper?

1. All believers. (v. 29)

How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?

1. Self-examination. (v. 27)
2. Recommitment. (Romans 12:1)
3. Confession of sin. (1 John 1:9)
4. Restoring relationships. (Matthew 5:23-24)

When and how often should we observe the Lord's Supper?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper.

COMMITMENT #3 - I WILL JOIN A SMALL GROUP

Our primary way of helping people find freedom and grow spiritually is through Small Groups. Andy Stanley says, "Life change happens in circles, not in rows." Real life change happens in the context of relationships – small groups. In the Bible, they worshipped in the temple, but ministry happened house to house.

"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." Acts 20:20

Small Groups Provide Three Things:

1. A place to connect. (1 Corinthians 9:22)
2. A place to protect. (1 John 3:16)
3. A place to grow. (Proverbs 27:17)

How Small Groups Work:

- Our small groups meet weekly or bi-weekly and provide a place for you to connect, grow, and discuss the issues and challenges of life.
- Small Groups are also where we pray, care for one another, and are missed if we don't show up!

How to Join a Group: contact Pastor Mike or a Small Group leader in your area.

You can START a Group!

- We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. You'll discover that it's easier than you think.

COMMITMENT #4 - I WILL GROW IN GRACE (BY BEING SPIRIT-FILLED) AND KNOWLEDGE (BY HAVING A QUIET TIME)

Attending worship services and being part of a small group are a great start, but there are at least two personal habits you need to develop in your daily life.

1. Developing a quiet time for prayer and Bible reading.

- Hearing God's Word. (Romans 10:17)
- Reading God's Word. (Revelation 1:3)
- Studying God's Word. (Acts 17:11)
- Memorizing God's Word. (Proverbs 7:2-3)
- Meditating on God's Word. (Psalm 1:2-3)

In my daily prayer time, I am:

- Giving devotion to God. (2 Chronicles 31:21)
- Getting direction from God. (Psalm 25:4-5)

2. Living under the influence of the Holy Spirit continually.

The Holy Spirit isn't a substance or a mystical, cosmic force. The Holy Spirit is God – our personal God. He's the third member of the Trinity.

The New Testament talks about believers being "filled with" the Holy Spirit, which has to do with being under his influence.

How do we live under the Spirit's influence?

- Remove all the barriers. (Acts 2:38)
- Relate to Him daily. (2 Corinthians 13:14)
- Remain under his influence. (Ephesians 5:18)

COMMITMENT #5 - I WILL LIVE A GODLY LIFE

God's Word teaches that our lifestyle should reflect godliness. We are to walk in righteousness and holiness. Paul declares in Titus 2:11–12 "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age."

We commit to:

1. Sexual purity: We will not practice adultery, fornication nor homosexuality, or get involved in pornography. (Ephesians 5:3, 1 Timothy 1:10)
2. Physical purity: Abstaining from alcoholism, smoking, marijuana, and other drug use. (1 Corinthians 6:18)
3. A self-controlled, disciplined life. (Titus above)
4. Financial integrity. (Ephesians 4:28; James 5:4)
5. Walking in love and respect: Practicing patience, love, and forgiveness; refraining from hatred and malice.
6. Showing respect for authority. (Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2: 13-17)

COMMITMENT #6 - I WILL DEVELOP MY GIFTS AND SERVE ALONGSIDE A TEAM

Did you know that God **SHAPed** you for significance? He has gifted you and made you uniquely you so that you can serve him according to his purposes. In fact, we say that saved people serve people. And the greatest way to serve God on earth is to serve people, whom God loves.

SHAPE stands for...

- Spiritual Gifts.
- Hearth
- Abilities
- Personality
- Experiences

God has given you a unique mix of these characteristics. When you decided to follow Jesus, you were given spiritual gifts to use to serve others within the body of Christ. Your heart is passionate about certain things. You have some natural abilities – areas you're just good at. You have a unique personality that was given to you by God. And you've been through a unique set of experiences. God wants to use a mix of all these characteristics to help you know how and where to serve him within the body.

For now, we hope you'll try out one of these ministry teams:

- First impressions and greeting
- Security
- Preparing coffee
- Children's Ministry
- Youth ministry
- Sound, video, audio tech.
- Music, instrumental, vocal, etc.
- Social media, communications.
- Special events.
- Building maintenance.
- Hosting a small group.
- Prayer ministry.
- Lay counseling.

COMMITMENT #7 - I WILL PRACTICE GENEROSITY AND GIVE REGULARLY

The Bible says in **Matthew 6:24** that the top competitor for our commitment to Jesus is money. Giving allows us to demonstrate that He is more important to us than material things. Not having cash or check on hand doesn't have to hold you back from giving, you can be obedient today by giving online. There is no organization with more potential to change the world than the local church!

GENEROSITY changes lives – ours and the people to whom we give.

The Bible teaches us about a baseline standard for giving: the tithe (a word that literally means a “tenth”). When we give the first 10% of our income through the local church, we put God first in our lives. Tithing is an act of worship that expresses our gratitude, faith, and love for others.

God also encourages us to give offerings beyond our tithe to specific projects at our local church and to other organizations and causes that we personally believe in.

What happens with your gift?

We honor your gifts with faithful stewardship, ethical business practices, and full accountability so that the financial integrity of the church remains beyond reproach.

COMMITMENT #8 - I WILL OWN THE MISSION, LIVING OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION AND GREAT COMMANDMENT

Every one of us can be part of the mission by following these four principles:

1. Accept personal responsibility.
2. Build personal relationships.
3. Share your personal story.
4. Give a personal invitation.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Pray. (Matthew 9:37-38)
- Go. (Isaiah 6:8-9)
- Give. (Matthew 6:19-21)

Start by writing out your story and emailing it to us at admin@peoplesworshipcentre.com

Share your story with others and invite people to join you on Sunday.

COMMITMENT #9 - I WILL SIGN THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT AND COMMIT TO THE VISION, VALUES, AND BELIEFS

THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with PWC’s statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the PWC church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following those who lead me. **(Romans 15:5, 19; 1 Peter 1:22, Hebrews 13:17)**
2. I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit. **(1 Thessalonians 1:2, Luke 14:23, Romans 15:7)**
3. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents and developing a servant’s heart. **(1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:11-12, Philippians 2:3-4, 7)**
4. I will support the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, living according to the teachings of my church, and giving regularly. **(Hebrews 10:25, Philippians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 16:2)**

THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Have you been saved? Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? _____

Have you been baptized by immersion since becoming a follower of Jesus? _____

If so, do you know the date? ____ / ____ / ____

And the place/church? _____

If you have not yet been immersed as a believer, are you willing to do so? _____

Do you need help finding a small group? _____

I'm interested in trying out at serving on one (or more) of the following teams:

_____ Greeting and first impressions

_____ Coffee and lobby/café prep

_____ Security

_____ Prayer ministry

_____ Worship, music, sound, tech

_____ Kids: Nursery and toddlers

_____ Kids: Preschoolers

_____ Kids: Elementary

_____ Youth ministry

_____ Hosting a small group

_____ Lay counseling or support groups

If you have a relationship with Jesus, have been baptized, and are ready to commit to membership at PWC, please sign below.

Signed

Date