

The following is to assist in providing a clearer understanding of our beliefs and practices as Presbyterians.

PRESBYTERIAN BELIEF AND PRACTICE

Presbyterians believe that the Word of God is the sole rule of faith and practice and as such, all of church life is to be governed by its teaching.

The Church is made up of all those in every generation who have, by the grace of God, come into a vital, living relationship with him through Jesus Christ. A person is made a member of the visible, outward church through baptism. This may be administered as an infant on the basis of parental faith or as an adult on profession of the faith of the person being baptised. A person becomes a full or communicant member of the church following attending a series of classes taken by the minister and by making a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and in taking vows before the congregation.

Communicant members who have contributed through the Free Will Offering in the previous or current financial year hold voting membership. Those who give through FWO but are not communicants are contributing members. Those who claim an association with the congregation but are neither communicants nor give to FWO are adherents.

Communicant membership can lapse after a two-year period of absence from the Lord's Table without good reason, but is ended only by the Kirk Session and after conversation with the person concerned. In addition, continuous absence from Public Worship would require that membership be reviewed.

Those in membership of other churches may become communicant members in one of three ways following attendance at classes.

by a transfer certificate from their previous Presbyterian Church.

by a written testimony to their membership of their previous church from the minister or pastor.

by a re-affirmation of their faith in Christ.

Attendance at the classes is compulsory for all joining the congregation. However, at the minister's discretion in the light of personal circumstances, the content of these classes may be covered by him with the person/s at home.