

# Exploring Membership



# ONE HOPE EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP COURSE

Become part of the **family**

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# WELCOME

We are delighted that you are considering membership in One Hope.

We truly believe that **being meaningfully part of a committed gospel community is God's idea of what is good for us**. So this is a great starting point.

This booklet and the two sessions of this course cover the main things you need to know so that you can consider:

- Moving beyond being a guest in the lounge to being a member of the family with your own room in the house!
- As elders, we invite you to make One Hope Church your home. A place and a people where you can live out your commitment to follow Christ.
- We urge you to transition from spectator mode to participator mode.

Yours in Christ,  
The One Hope Elders



## WHY MEMBERSHIP?

*“Individuals who have never experienced the joy and delight of belonging to a loving and vital Christian body have missed one of the thrills of the Christian life. Mere ‘church-going’ was never in God’s plan for you. He wants you very closely knit with a group of dear friends with whom you can share your life. - Terry Virgo*

When we put our faith in Christ, we immediately become part of a worldwide Church. You can think about it as Church with a capital “C” and our local church as church with a small “c”. It is this global church that is pictured in texts like Rev 7:9 (NIV): “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” It is a beautiful picture and one of the many reasons we are so passionate about seeing other churches around the world (and right here in Stellenbosch) as gospel partners; part of the same body. We hate the subtle competitive nonsense that seems to exist among so many churches as if we were part of separate teams or on different missions. The Bible clearly and repeatedly rejects this false idea. Therefore, our understanding of One Hope as our local church needs to find its rightful place in our thinking about this wider, universal Church.

With that in mind, it’s immediately obvious that scripture gives many instructions that cannot be fulfilled on a worldwide church level. For that, God gives us local churches. A local church is not a building or a place. A church is a people, a family. More specifically a local church is born-again, Spirit-filled people who gather regularly in the name of the Lord Jesus and under the authority of God’s Word and His ordained leaders, to profess the true gospel and affirm each other’s citizenship in the kingdom of God by the ordinances (water baptism and communion).

### Seven reasons why we believe in local church membership:

1. **It is stated in the bible:** “Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about 3000 were added to their number... and the Lord added to their number daily” (Acts 2:41 & 47). The biblical

pattern is people get saved and then added to a local church community.

2. **It is implied in the bible:** The bible describes local church life as warm and personal (e.g. Acts 2:42-47 & Acts 4:32-37), the prominent “body of Christ” metaphor (1 Corinthians 12:12 & Ephesians 1:22-23) for the church assumes functioning and meaningful connection as well as the “family” metaphor assuming love, acceptance and responsibility in the form of family membership.
3. **Leaders and followers:** The bible cautions church leaders that they will be held to account for how they lead (1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Hebrews 13:17 & James 3:1), and equally followers are instructed to obey their leaders (Hebrews 13:17). Both pre-suppose meaningful church membership and ordained leadership.
4. **New Testament structure:** The epistles are written to local churches assuming all believers would be members of local churches and therefore hear these epistles.
5. **New Testament discipline:** In cases of on-going unrepentance, Paul instructed the churches to expel members from the church. Again implying recognised membership and leadership.
6. **Obedience to the scriptures:** We simply cannot obey many of the at least 59 “...one another” commands given to us in scripture without being meaningfully part of a gospel community. (See appendix: *One Another Verses*)
7. **Jesus loved the Church:** Jesus loved the church so much that He laid down His life for her (Ephesians 5:25). We are called to Christlikeness (1 John 2:6) – which includes loving the church as He did.

Christ did not give the Great Commission to individual Christians only. The church is God’s plan to make known to the world His manifold wisdom (Ephesians 3:10). We make God known through sharing our lives, which quite often results in us sacrificing for and serving others.

*“Being meaningfully part of a committed gospel community is God’s idea of what is good for us.”*



## OUR STORY SO FAR



**1971**

In 1971, a Full Gospel Church named Abundant Life was planted in Somerset West by Ken Hart.

**1994**

Abundant Life left the Full Gospel denomination and planted out as an independent church.

**2002**

Pete and Jan Howard-Browne relocated from Pietermaritzburg to take over the leadership of NewGen. Pete served on the NCMI apostolic team for 10 years.

Over time, NewGen grew into a multi-site model church, one church with many congregations, and joined the Advance Movement.

**1972-1987**

Ken was succeeded by Joe van der Merwe in 1972. Then Jim Sweetnam in 1982. And Vic O'Kelly in 1987, followed by Rob Farquharson.

**1998**

Tom Tapping took the lead and changed the name from Abundant Life to New Generation Church International (NewGen). Tom served on the apostolic team of New Covenant Ministries International (NCMI).

**2009**

NewGen Stellenbosch was planted as a congregation with Mark and Elna Tennant leading. They handed over to Stef and Caz Cramer in 2011.

**2013**

Pete Howard-Browne suffered a severe stroke and had to hand over the leadership of NewGen at large. After a thorough process on 13 October 2013, at The Refinery with all the NewGen congregations present, Stef and Caz Cramer were released to lead NewGen as a whole.

**2014**

A year later, on 2 November 2014, Paul and Kate Hoatson were released to lead NewGen Stellenbosch.

**2016**

In 2016 the elders sensed a need to change our ministry model for greater gospel impact and fruitfulness in the various locations. After a very thorough and prayerful process it was decided to plant out the various congregations as autonomous churches over time.

**2019**

In February 2019, NewGen Stellenbosch was launched out as One Hope Church Stellenbosch.

**2023/2024**

Paul and Kate responded to God's call to move to the UK at the end of 2023 and handed over leadership to Gareth & Nadine Bowley at the start of 2024.

*“If I have seen farther than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulders of giants. - Isaac Newton*



## LEADERSHIP IN ONE HOPE

*Remember your leaders who have spoken the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith...Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. - Hebrews 13:7 & 17*

In the New Testament, there are two kinds of leaders in a local church: Elders and deacons.

In the life of One Hope this is the role that elders and deacons can play in your life:

1. Enter and exit the church through them.
2. Trust them to lead the church through prayer, teaching & preaching.
3. Receive their shepherding care.
4. Embrace their God-given guarding, guiding & governing role as fathers in the family.
5. If need be, be open to being disciplined by them.

### **Elders**

Current elders: Gareth Bowley, Johannes Brand, Nathan Fisher

### **Deacons**

Although at the moment we have not appointed deacons, we have a Core Leaders Team in OHC and those key ministry leaders, both men and women, are currently all fulfilling the biblical role of deacons in our church.

### **Advance Movement (church network)**

One Hope Church is an Advance partner church. Advance is a movement of over 130 churches worldwide, partnering together to advance the gospel through planting and strengthening churches ([www.advancemovement.com](http://www.advancemovement.com)).

In the New Testament, churches seemed to partner primarily around four things which characterise our partnership within Advance:

- shared doctrine
- shared mission

- genuine relationship
- recognised leadership.

Although each local church within the Advance Movement is independent and led by local elders, Advance churches partner around the following five shared values:

1. Gospel-centred churches
2. Missional churches
3. Elder-led churches
4. Spirit-empowered churches
5. Disciple-making churches

As a local church, we are intentional about our partnering because

- we align with these shared values
- we value how our partnering draws us into the wider mission of Jesus
- We love how partnering provides an authentic context, both to be strengthened and for us to be held accountable, and to receive support so that we can remain faithful and true to the Scriptures and to God's purposes for One Hope.
- We are not just recipients in this partnership but seek continually to see how God will use One Hope and its people to strengthen other churches within the Advance family and help to see more planted.



## OUR MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. - Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20*

**Mission Statement:** (Our purpose for existence)

**Being filled and filling Stellenbosch with the hope and life of Christ.**

**Vision Statement:** (How we are fulfilling our purpose)

**We are becoming an authentic family, committed to...**

- **Proclaiming** the gospel
- Making mature **disciples**
- Being a **word & Spirit** people
- Raising, sending and **blessing** beyond ourselves
- Equipping people to think, believe and live more **justly**
- Reaching and raising the **next generation**
- **Planting** sites or churches

**Core Values:**

**The behaviours we cherish**

- Be warm & welcoming - “always room for more”
- Be real - “living authentically”
- Be involved - “all hands on deck”
- Be generous - “blessed to bless”
- Be dependant - “unless the Lord builds”
- Be rooted - “the bible is our book”
- Be Spirit filled - “overflowing life”
- Be expectant - “expect God for more”

## VISION UNPACKED

### **We are becoming an authentic family, committed to...**

- **Proclaiming** the gospel
- Making mature **disciples**
- Being a **word & Spirit** people
- Raising, sending and **blessing** beyond ourselves
- Equipping people to think, believe and live more **justly**
- Reaching and raising the **next generation**
- **Planting** sites or churches

### **We are becoming an authentic family**

*Being meaningfully part of a committed gospel community is God's idea of what is good for us.*

#### **One anothering**

While there is an increasing trend in the world today towards individualism, we believe that God has rather called us to meaningfully live together in community as Christ-followers. In the New Testament, there are 59 verses that contain the phrase “one another”, directed at the New Testament believers, in the form of commands or instructions as to how we ought, or ought not to relate to one another. (See Appendix 2: One another verses). Not only do these verses make it clear that we are to live together in a meaningful community, but also they give us wonderful wisdom on how to live together in community. (Read more on maintaining healthy relationships in the community in Appendix 1: How to reconcile broken relationships).

#### **Family gatherings**

An integral part of living together in community as Christians in One Hope, is meeting together regularly. (Heb 10:24-25). While formal meetings are not the only way in which we live together in community, they are a key aspect of meaningfully living together in community, and are often a springboard for friendships and more organic, informal times together.

We have three primary types of regular gatherings:

1. Sunday worship gatherings (with children's ministry)
2. Midweek smaller groups
3. Prayer meetings

### **Sunday worship gatherings**

Our Sunday gatherings regularly incorporate the following core elements:

- The preaching and teaching of God's word
- Worshipping God through singing, prayer and financial giving
- Communion (the Lord's supper)
- Water baptisms

### **Smaller groups**

We strongly encourage every One Hoper to become a committed member of one or more of the smaller groups in One Hope. These smaller groups play a vital role in creating a space where we can experience the benefits of being in a church community in a smaller, more intimate group. It is a space where we worship together in smaller groups, build close friendships, encourage and support one another, are accountable to one another, serve One Hope and our community together and enjoy doing life with one another. These include midweek life groups, discipleship groups (Life on Life Missional Discipleship Groups & Formation Groups), Bible study groups, high school ministry group.

### **Prayer meetings**

We believe that God loves to communicate with His people. We see prayer as one of the primary ways that we partner with God in living out his world-changing mission for us here on earth. As Oswald Chambers says, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work."

We love public and private prayer and want to see more prayer in every area of One Hope. We pray together every Sunday morning before the gathering (at 08:45) as well as on the first Tuesday/Wednesday of each month with our fast and prayer days in our Life Groups.

# We are becoming an authentic family, committed to... **Proclaiming the gospel**

## **What is it?**

The proclamation of the gospel is the primary vehicle God uses in bringing people back into right relationship with Himself. Proclaiming the gospel is the clear and unashamed telling of the good news about Jesus. This good news is that God planned from all eternity passed to make a people for Himself through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of His son Jesus 2000 years ago. The good news is that this plan is freely offered to all who will receive it and it has incredible benefits for those who become His followers, the foremost of which is that we get brought back to God forever. (1 Cor 15:1-5, 2 Cor 5:18-19).

## **Why is it important?**

The instruction is clear from Jesus himself (Matthew 28:16-20) that Christ-followers are to go into all the world and make disciples. This implies the need to intentionally proclaim the Gospel everywhere we go so that all would hear and have the opportunity to respond and be made right with God for eternity. We can only obey Jesus' command to us by ongoingly telling the Gospel to all those that Jesus brings across our paths.

## **What does it look like in One Hope?**

As One Hope members, these are the four primary ways that we share the Gospel locally, regionally & globally:

- Invite unsaved people to the **public proclamation** of the Gospel in Sunday gatherings.
- Invite unsaved people to planned Gospel proclamation **special events** (eg. the Alpha course and others).
- **Pursue a missional lifestyle** of ongoing personal Gospel proclamation in all the relationships that God brings into your life.
- **We plant and strengthen churches in Stellenbosch and beyond** as a key driver for greater evangelism efforts that sees many new people coming to faith as a result.

# **We are becoming an authentic family, committed to... Making mature disciples**

## **What is it?**

The word disciple simply means follower. A disciple of Jesus desires to do as Jesus taught and lived and follow him wherever he may lead. But we recognise that it is more than mere outward actions, it is a work of the Holy Spirit as we submit our hearts, minds and entire lives to being formed into the image of Christ.

Discipleship is the process of making mature disciples. To mature as a disciple is to grow in our love and knowledge of God and allow that to inform how we live. Or to put it another way, mature disciples are those that are doers of the word not just hearers of the word (James 1:22-25). One Hope desires to create a culture of discipleship. Because of this, our leaders are committed to continually asking the question “How is this event, ministry, course etc helping make mature disciples?”

## **Why is it important?**

One Hope is committed to making mature disciples because Jesus is committed to making mature disciples. Jesus gave the church one mission: to make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20). Making mature disciples is one of the primary ways we live out being filled and filling Stellenbosch with the hope and life of Christ.

We believe that discipleship happens through both being disciplined and discipling others. We see this in Matthew 4:19 when Jesus says “follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” From the moment Jesus called his first disciples he made it clear that the result of following him, being disciplined by him, is to go and call others to follow Jesus. In Paul’s final letter he instructs Timothy to pass on what he has learned from being with and following Paul (2 Tim. 2:2). The Bible teaches that a Christian disciple is one that receives and then passes on what they have received. As Mark Dever puts it “the Christian Life is the disciplined life and the discipling life.”<sup>1</sup>

## **What does it look like in One Hope?**

Although to some degree all that we do plays a role in discipleship there are a few things we see as critical to making mature disciples:

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<sup>1</sup> Mark Dever, *Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus* (Weaton, IL: Crossway, 2016), 13.

- Personal habits of grace: Intentional habit building is central to transforming discipleship. We are committed to helping One Hoppers learn and practice the time-tested habits of grace (i.e. Bible reading and meditation, prayer, and fasting).
- Preaching: On Sundays, One Hoppers gather and are disciplined together by scripture as we hear from those gifted and equipped to teach.
- Small groups: In small groups, you can know and be known and they give opportunity to practice the “one anothers” of scripture (Mark 9:50, John 13:34, Romans 12:10, 12:16, 1 Cor 11:33 to name a few). Some of our small group environments include life groups, bible studies, discipleship groups and youth group.

Making mature disciples is not just a formal program, it is a way of life for all Christians. Our hope is that as we facilitate formal discipleship spaces it will overflow into One Hoppers’ everyday lives. And through this overflow, we will be filling Stellenbosch and beyond with the hope and life of Christ.

## **We are becoming an authentic family, committed to... Being a Word & Spirit people**

### **What is it?**

This section centres around our desire as a church to both be prioritising the Word of God as well as being open and obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit of God. It’s in this wonderful, radical middle ground that we believe God has called One Hope to continue to fight for balance. To allow Him to be Lord over our minds, our affections, emotions and our bodies.

But this is no easy feat. It is obvious when we look at churches today, that many seem to fall off the horse on one side or the other. Some churches seem to be all about experiencing the Holy Spirit with not much focus and attention given to the study of God’s Word. Other churches focus so exclusively on the Word that you wonder if the Holy Spirit is even present, and more concerningly, whether anyone even seems to notice.



## **Why is it important?**

The single most important thing you need to know in this regard is that any division is not one the Bible ever endorses. It is God's Word that encourages us to "...eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit" (1 Cor 14:1) and it is God's Word again which teaches us that God, through the Holy Spirit is the author of the Word we so cherish. (2 Tim 3:16) Furthermore, it is only by the work of the Holy Spirit that the Bible is more than just another book to us – He makes it alive! It's so obvious when you stop to think about it that these divisions or emphases are not Biblical or helpful. The bible teaches us to test everything against God's Word. It is both the Spirit and the Word that govern and breathe life into our souls.

God's Word also makes clear through teaching and examples, that God is a God who engages with every part of us. The first and, according to Jesus, most important command is to, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matt 22:37). The challenging question we must ask ourselves is whether this is true of us and our practice and experience of our relationship with Jesus? Or do we selectively "Love the Lord" with just parts of us where we feel most comfortable?

## **What does this look like in One Hope?**

- When we preach, we study hard to understand God's word and to teach it rightly (2 Tim 2:15), while relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to work through his Word into practical application in our lives. (1 Cor 2:1-5)
- We affirm that salvation is only possible by the work of the Holy Spirit, and at the same time, we believe scripture also teaches us to expect and to desire subsequent infillings of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- We believe that the Scriptural encouragement regarding the gifts of the Holy Spirit is that they are to be desired, pursued and used for the building up and edification of the individuals as well as for the strengthening and equipping of the church. (Used privately and publicly) We desire spiritual gifts to flow in all our meetings. Someone may read a scripture, someone may have a prophecy for the church or for individuals present. If someone feels to speak in a tongue publicly, we believe scripture teaches that we are to expect an interpretation of that tongue so we will wait for it. (1 Cor 14, 1

Cor 12, Rom 12, Eph 4)

- Our emphasis is on the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives, rather than being overly devoted to any particular 'mechanism' of how we receive the Holy Spirit. God is a varied and creative God and we believe that the Holy Spirit fills people in various and creative ways. (Gal 5: 16-26)
- We believe that Scripture is inspired by God and that when it is preached or taught, the Holy Spirit is at work through the Word to bring correction, rebuke, encouragement etc. (2 Tim 3:14-16)
- We believe that exuberance and joy in worship and praise is a fitting and appropriate response to God's love for us and as such we actively encourage physical demonstrations of this (Raising hands, dancing, joyful singing, etc.) (Many of the Psalms, Col 3:16, Rom 12:1, Heb 13:15)

## **We are becoming an authentic family, committed to... Raising, sending and blessing beyond ourselves**

### **What is it?**

At One Hope we understand that the people, expertise, finances and resources God has entrusted to us are not for our benefit alone but also for the greater kingdom advance of the gospel. Because of this, we desire to be a church that raises, sends and blesses beyond ourselves. We also aim to be a community where everyone is sent. It is an unhelpful dichotomy to say that some people are senders and some are goers when thinking about mission. We believe that every One Hoper is a sender through things like giving of finances, prayer and helping to disciple others and everyone is a goer, some go to local neighbourhoods and workplaces while others go to far off nations, both of which are close to the heart of God.

### **Why is it important?**

We see in Genesis 12 that God desires to create a people that he will bless so that they would be a blessing to others. And throughout the New Testament, we see the pattern of churches sending finances and people out to be a blessing (Acts 13, Philipians 4:15-18, 3 John 5-8). Paul makes it clear that the church is to equip or raise up people to do the work of ministry (Ephesians 4: 11,12). And ultimately we look to

Jesus as the model for being sent and blessing beyond himself. In John 20 we read that Jesus was sent by his Father and then he commissions us to be sent to the world around us.

### What does it look like in One Hope?

- We preach/teach about **vocation** and place in a way that helps One Hoppers understand that wherever God has put them, they are to bring the hope and life of Christ.
- We value both the proclamation of the gospel, mercy ministry and the making of mature disciples. Our **finances** reflect this.
- We love **students**. Living in a university town gives us a unique way to practically live this out. We are able to invite students into the life of the church, love and equip them and then as they graduate send them out to be a blessing wherever God takes them.
- We intentionally **build relationships with, encourage and support other churches** in Stellenbosch in their efforts to expand the Gospel's impact through their ministry.
- We partner with **missionaries**. We partner financially and in prayer with vocational missionaries abroad and locally.
- We partner with **Advance** financially, and through the partnership, we share our gifts with other churches for the sake of church planting and strengthening.

## We are becoming an authentic family, committed to... Equipping people to think, believe and live more justly

### What is it?

The biblical idea of justice concerns two major concepts. First, biblical justice includes **rectifying justice**. Rectifying justice punishes wrongdoers and cares for the victims of injustice. It is concerned with making sure people are treated equally and highlights the care for the vulnerable of society.

The second concept that makes up biblical justice is that of **primary justice**. Tim Keller describes this as “the day-to-day living in which a person conducts all relationships in family and society with fairness,

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<sup>2</sup> [www.relevantmagazine.com/faith/what-biblical-justice/](http://www.relevantmagazine.com/faith/what-biblical-justice/) (The quote and the ideas of the entire paragraph comes from this article by Tim Keller)

generosity and equity.”<sup>2</sup>

Justice essentially then means that people get what they deserve as image-bearers of God. **Living justly** includes **taking a proactive role in righting wrongs and living generously and equitably in right relation to others**. All of this is done empowered by the Holy Spirit and with an attitude that is honouring and uplifting to all.<sup>3</sup>

### **Why is it important?**

The primary motivation behind **desiring people to think, believe and live more justly is because God is just**. He is the God of justice (Psalm 146:7-9).

As God’s image-bearers, we are called to reflect the character of God to the world around us. Throughout Scripture, we see that the care and concern for the vulnerable and for justice is at the very heart of God (Psalm 10:14, Psalm 113:7-8, Isaiah 41:17, among many others). As the bride of Christ, we desire to reflect that heart to Stellenbosch and beyond.

### **What does it look like in One Hope?**

- We believe that we are to be a socially engaged community of faith
- **Serve Stellenbosch:** we believe that every Christ follower should be living out this vision of biblical justice and that we, together, can have an impact on social ills in Stellenbosch. In response to this conviction, we launched Serve Stellenbosch in 2018 and have been growing in the establishment of this ministry since then.
  - Serve Stellenbosch exists to *inspire, equip and mobilise* Christ-followers to grow in thinking, believing and living more justly in Stellenbosch. (For more info visit [servestellenbosch.co.za](http://servestellenbosch.co.za))
- We regularly **highlight the theme of justice** throughout scripture through our preaching and help One Hopers apply that to the current realities around us.
- We have many **members** who are **involved in the NGO space** and are working to help alleviate poverty and injustice. As a church, we want to champion their work and come alongside them in appropriate ways.

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<sup>3</sup> One Hope Biblical Justice Theology Paper

# We are becoming an authentic family, committed to... Reaching and raising the next generation

## What is it?

We count it a great privilege to invest in the lives of the children and youth that belong to our community. As a One Hope Church family, we want to direct our efforts to support and strengthen families. The Bible sees parents/guardians as the primary disciple-makers in the lives of their children and our desire is to come alongside and partner with them in this important endeavour.

## Why is it important?

Scripture makes it clear that the making of mature disciples starts at a young age and we as a church family have a responsibility to help the next generation know, love and follow Jesus (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Jesus also models for us that children are precious to him and they should be included and cared for in a special way (Mark 10:13-16). In addition to the biblical example, recent research has shown that two-thirds of Christians come to faith before the age of 18.<sup>4</sup> This is a staggering reality and reminds us of the investment that needs to be made early in the children and youth of One Hope.

## What does it look like in One Hope?

- **Partnering with families** in the discipleship of their children
- And wanting to be a **multigenerational** family church
- Prioritizing **staff roles** dedicated to next-generation work
- Investment in volunteers: we have regular training times for our volunteers as well as caring for them spiritually as we know you can't give what you don't have yourself
- Equipping parents through courses and workshops
- Kids ministry: Age-appropriate, gospel-centred classes are offered on Sunday mornings for kids ages 3-13. These have a strong emphasis on belief reorientation over behaviour modification.
- Recon: High schoolers (aged 13-18) gather every Friday night during school term with leaders to have some fun and dig deep into the truths of God, who He is and who they are because of what He has done for them.

<sup>4</sup> [www.ministry-to-children.com/childrens-ministry-statistics/#childhood](http://www.ministry-to-children.com/childrens-ministry-statistics/#childhood)

- Advance Youth Camp: partner with other Advance churches to hold an annual camp for high-schoolers.

## **We are becoming an authentic family, committed to... Planting sites or churches**

### **What is it?**

One Hope feels a God-given call to planting churches. We believe that if we live out our vision to proclaim the gospel, make mature disciples, and raise, send, and bless beyond ourselves, one of the results will be the planting of new churches.

### **Why is it important?**

We are convinced that the pattern in scripture is that the primary way God will fulfil the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is through the local church. We see this throughout the book of Acts and the epistles. And because of this, our conviction is that until Jesus returns we can never have enough gospel-centred churches.

### **What does it look like in One Hope?**

- We believe that God has specifically brought people to Stellenbosch for a time for His global purpose of church planting, so we actively **live out our vision** of proclaiming the gospel, making mature disciples, and raising, sending, and blessing beyond ourselves.
- We partner with **Advance** through:
  - Giving financially to help support church plants around the world.
  - Strengthening and helping other churches around the world with areas of expertise that we may have.
  - Encouraging, praying for, visiting and blessing other churches.
- We believe that **everyone has a role to play in planting more churches**. So we seek to **multiply ministry** and not monopolize it by ongoingly asking...
  - Who are our next preachers, our next worship leaders/elders?
  - Who might be willing to be part of a new church plant and be the friendliest person that new people meet as they walk through the door?
  - Who has God gifted with a warm heart for people (gift of hospitality)?

- Who has God given the ability to make money to sow into these kingdom initiatives?
- Where are our intercessors willing to continuously pray for the church?
- Where are those with the gift of faith to encourage us to this challenging work?

## CORE VALUES UNPACKED

### The behaviours we cherish

- Be warm & welcoming - “always room for more”
- Be real - “living authentically”
- Be involved - “all hands on deck”
- Be generous - “blessed to bless”
- Be dependant - “unless the Lord builds”
- Be rooted - “the bible is our book”
- Be Spirit-filled - “keep in step with the Spirit”
- Be expectant - “expect God for more”

You will notice that these core values or behaviours that we cherish are very much aligned with our vision statement. We believe that embracing and living out these core values will better enable us to achieve our vision.

### We cherish being warm and welcoming

*Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! - Hebrews 13:1-2*

In One Hope there is always room for more. Whether it is a braai invite, a hike, a prayer meeting or an Alpha course, everyone is welcome and we love having them. We are a people with open hearts and open homes. We embody a family vibe that is friendly to all. We love building healthy community together. We strive to make our Sundays as welcoming and accessible to as many people as we can, we set up connect lunches to get new folks connected into the community. We make every effort to make everyone feel warm and welcome.

## **We cherish being real**

*Don't act out of selfish ambition or be conceited. Instead, humbly think of others as being better than yourselves. - Philipians 2:3*

Without a healthy level of authenticity and realness, it is very difficult to build genuine community. So this is a behaviour that we cherish and model as much as we can. We strive to demonstrate realness in all our public ministry environments and we strongly encourage authenticity and vulnerability in relationships in all our smaller group spaces.

## **We cherish being involved**

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. - 1 Peter 4:10*

We love to get involved whenever and wherever we can. We know that we were saved to serve one another and that we have all been given supernatural gifts in order to build up the Body of Christ, we literally help each other with whatever gifts the Holy Spirit has supernaturally given to us. We love getting all hands on deck to grow this community together.

We have many opportunities available weekly to serve in our church (Welcoming, Kids Ministry, Youth Ministry, Sunday Set Up, Worship Band, Sunday Sound & Media, etc.) and to serve from our church through Serve Stellenbosch initiatives.

## **We cherish being generous**

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. - 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

We know that all that we have is from God and is given to us only temporarily to be used in obedience to His leading. We are all stewards of the lives and stuff God has given us. We love to be a blessing to others just as we have been so blessed by God. We love to give away our time, talents and treasure (money and possessions) freely and



faithfully to see others experience the abundance and grace of our God just as we have. (Read more in Appendix 3: Generosity, underwrite the cause of Christ)

## **We cherish being dependant**

*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. - Psalm 127:1*

We can truly do nothing of eternal value on our own. We are a people on our knees with our heads bowed and our arms raised. We value prayer and praise as practises and signs of utter dependence on God. This is why prayer is such a pivotal element in everything we do. We praise and worship together weekly on Sundays. We pray and fast together monthly as a congregation, we pray together weekly before Sunday gatherings. We encourage worship and prayer in smaller groups. We lament together over significant events and pray together in special moments. Prayer and praise are essential to who we are as a people.

## **We cherish being rooted**

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. - 2 Timothy 3:16*

The bible is our book, we love God's word. All that we do and all that we are is informed and directed by the scriptures. We know that when we are rooted in His word, we stay strong and grounded and filled with true life to give away to others. We love to expound and draw from the word of God in all our gathered and personal spaces. God's word is like a manual for our lives, directions from the One who knows best how we work and what makes us flourish. The Holy Spirit is the help we need as we read God's word to take it from just words on a page to the living word of God in our hearts, searching our deepest thoughts and emotions, leading us to repentance and obedience. He is the author, the interpreter and the power we need to experience the fullness of God's word in our lives.

## **We cherish being Spirit-filled**

*If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. - John 14:15-17*

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. - Ephesians 5:18-19*

We love the Holy Spirit and His vital role as our ‘Helper’ sent by the Father and the Son for our regeneration, assurance, growth in godliness and power for mission. We cherish being a people continually filled by the Spirit so that we walk daily dependent on His power, in obedience to His promptings, thereby increasingly displaying the fruit of the Spirit while we use the gifts He has given us for the advance of His kingdom and the blessing of others. We are grateful for His tangible presence with us in times of prayer and worship, continually showing us the Father and the Son and illuminating our reading and preaching of Scripture.

## **We cherish being expectant**

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. - Ephesians 3:20-21*

Small faith in a Big God is what we do. We come to every moment and every relationship expectant that God has something up His sleeve. He wants to do more than we could possibly hope or imagine even in the mundane of everyday life. He desires to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. We trust Him. There are no mistakes in God. No coincidences. We constantly pray, “More Lord.”



## WHAT WE BELIEVE

Our essential beliefs are rooted in Scripture, rather than speculation or tradition. Though we seek to be geared to the times, we are determined to anchor ourselves to the rock of timeless truth. What follows are some of those timeless truths, with scripture references included.

### The Bible

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.* - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

We believe the Bible (every verse in all 66 books) originated with God, though it was written by chosen authors. It speaks with the authority of God while at the same time reflecting the backgrounds, styles and vocabularies of these human authors. In its original manuscripts, it is infallible and inerrant. It is the full and final authority on all matters of faith and practice. No other writing is similarly inspired by God, nor comes close to having its life-transforming potential. Therefore, it is to be thoughtfully and diligently, happily and prayerfully read and taught, memorised and meditated upon, understood and applied, believed and obeyed.

*2 Tim 3:15-17, 2 Pet 1:20-21, Prov 30:5, Deut 4:2, Ps 19:7-9, Isa 55:9-11, Neh 8:1-2, Josh 1:8, Rom 10:17, James 1:21-25*

### God

*God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"* - Exodus 3:14

We believe God is uncreated, eternal, self-sustaining, unchanging, all-knowing, all-powerful, present everywhere and entirely wise, good, loving, gracious, compassionate, righteous and holy. This one God eternally exists as a loving community of three equal persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He created the universe, the world and everything in it. Through his sovereign authority and unrivalled power,

God continues to sustain and govern his creation. He operates within and over every detail of history, past, present and future, as he fulfils his redemptive purposes.

*Acts 17:24-25, Mal 3:6, Ps 90:2, Jer 23:23-24, Isa 46:9-10, Dan 4:34-35, 1 John 3:20, Dan 2:20, 1 John 4:8-10, Rev 4:8, Deut 6:4, 2 Cor 13:14, Matt 28:19, Neh 9:6, Eph 1:11, Acts 17:26, Rom 8:28*

## **Humankind**

*So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them. - Genesis 1:27*

We believe God created humankind, male and female, in his own image and likeness with dignity and worth. He created us to worship, enjoy and love him forever, and to be responsible stewards of his creation. The first humans, however sinfully defied God, consequently corrupting the entire human race, alienating us from God (and in many ways from each other), and bringing us under his righteous judgment. Neither good deeds nor religious observance are able to restore this broken relationship with our Maker. Yet, God lovingly took it upon himself to restore us back to himself. Over 4000 years ago, through Abraham, he brought about the ancient nation of Israel, a people to whom he progressively revealed himself through saving deeds, covenants, prophets, signs and scripture. But most significantly, God promised His people the coming of a divine Saviour for all people, a promise that was fulfilled over 2000 years ago.

*Gen 1:26-27; Ps 95:6, Gen 2:15, Gen 3:1-12, Psalm 51:4, Matt 15:19, Rom 3:22-23, 5:12; Eph 2:1-3, Gen 12:1-2, Heb 1:1-2, Luke 24:25-27*

## **Jesus Christ**

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. - John 1:14*

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became fully human, without ceasing to be fully God. He was conceived by the Holy

Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary. He lived an extraordinary life, marked by profound miracles and teachings. He related to the Father with perfect obedience and intimacy. Primarily, he came to pay the price for the sins of all people by willingly dying on the cross as our substitute, satisfying divine justice on our behalf. Through this sacrifice, he mercifully provided the free, eternal gift of salvation, which includes forgiveness, new life and adoption into God's family. He rose from the dead and later ascended into heaven where he now sits at the right hand of the Father as the only reconciling mediator between a holy God and sinful people. This gift of salvation is available to all who turn to and trust in Christ alone as their Lord and Saviour. Moreover, he promises to personally and visibly return to earth to climax human history.

*John 1:1-2, John 1:14, Luke 1:35, John 5:19, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 Peter 1:3-5, Heb 7:25, Heb 9:24, Rom 8:34, 1 John 2:1-2, Eph 2:8-10, Eph 1:5,7, 1 Tim 2:5, Acts 16:31, Acts 1:9-11*

## **The Holy Spirit**

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. - John 16:13-14*

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, whose primary work is to regenerate unbelievers, enabling them to trust in Christ for their salvation. Upon salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells believers, whether or not they are aware of His presence. As believers seek Him, He continually fills them, deepening their awareness of God's tangible presence, love, and empowering grace for life and witness.

The Holy Spirit reveals the Father and the Son, pouring God's love into the hearts of believers so that they are increasingly assured of their salvation and true identity as God's children.

The Holy Spirit works in our hearts to transform our desires. As believers obey the Holy Spirit and respond to His prompts, they increasingly conform to Christ's character. This transformational process requires participation as the Spirit convicts, guides, empowers, leads, and calls believers into all that they are in Christ.

*1 Cor 6:19, John 16:13-14, Eph 5:18, Acts 2:1-4, Rom 5:8, 2 Cor 3:18, Gal 5:22-23, Rom 8:16, Eph 1:13, 2 Tim 2:7, 1 Cor 12:8-11, John 16:7, Eph 4:3-4, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:39*

## **The Church**

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. - Ephesians 2:19-22*

We believe all Christians are united with Christ as members of his body, the one true church. This one universal church finds expression in varied local churches. In each local church, believers are to be a spiritual family that regularly gathers for worship, prayer, the teaching of the Word, baptism and communion. Each church is to be led, equipped and cared for by elders and leaders, and each believer is to do all they can to strengthen the church through loving one another, protecting the unity of the church, and generously serving and giving in whatever ways they can. The priority of every church is to impact the world, and penetrate culture, with the good news of Jesus Christ. All this is done under the direction of Christ, who is both the head of the church, and the one who is building it.

*1 Cor 1:2, Heb 10:25, Gal 6:10, Acts 2:41-47, 1 Tim 5:17, Heb 13:17, Eph 4:11-12, Eph 4:2-3, 1 John 3:16-18, 2 Cor 9:7,13, Rom 12:4-8, Matt 4:19, Matt 28:18-20, Eph 1:22-23, Matt 16:18*

## **The Judgement**

*...because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead. - Acts 17:31*

We believe God is grieved and angered by sin, unbelief and rebellion. He promises to judge everything and everyone that contradicts his character and defies his will. Everyone lives once, and then faces

God on Judgement day, an event that will follow the return of Christ. Depending on whether we spurn or embrace Christ and his grace in this life, we will either suffer eternal condemnation without him, or be received into eternal communion with him. Additionally, depending on their faithfulness to Christ, believers will receive heavenly rewards.

*Rom 2:5, 3:19, Acts 17:30-31, Heb 9:27, 2 Thes 1:8-9, Rev 14:9-11, Luke 23:39-43, Phil 1:21-23, 1 Cor 3:12-15, Col 3:23-24*

## **The Kingdom**

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. - Revelation 21:1-3*

We believe that Christ, through his first coming, introduced his Kingdom in part on the earth. Through his second coming, his kingdom will be fully realised: a redeemed humanity will enjoy immortal resurrection bodies as they celebrate God's manifest presence and grace forever in the new heavens and new earth, a world purged of all suffering, injustice, sin and death. The church is to both live in joyful anticipation of this certain future, and to provide the world with 'foretastes' of it. We do this through proclaiming the gospel, living counter-culturally, building authentic community, serving the poor and marginalized, confronting injustice, and protecting creation, all the time praying, 'Let your kingdom come.'

*Mark 1:14-15, 1 Cor 15:51-54, Rev 21:1-3, 22:1-5, Isa 65:17-25, Matt 6:19-21, Heb 6:5, Luke 24:46-49, Matt 5:13-16, John 13:34-35, Luke 10:27-37, Job 29:12-17, Matt 6:9-10*

## **SOME OF OUR CONVICTIONS**

For more info on specific convictions, have a look at the content available at [www.onehopechurch.co.za/exploringmembership](http://www.onehopechurch.co.za/exploringmembership).

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS

## For membership, we require that:

1. You have put your faith and trust in Jesus to save and rescue you.
2. You would be open to pursuing being water baptised as a Christ-follower.
3. You would be open to being continually filled with the Holy Spirit.
4. You are in general agreement with what we believe in our essential beliefs.

## Our commitments to you as an eldership team:

1. Obey God and His leading
2. Seek to be as faithful to scripture as we possibly can
3. Build One Hope Church based on the vision and values set before you in this course
4. Faithfully pastor you
5. Pray for you
6. By the grace of God to pursue godliness and integrity
7. To faithfully lead, protect and nourish our families and our marriages
8. Be accountable to an apostolic team

## Your commitment to us:

1. That you, by God's grace, would **passionately follow Jesus**
2. That you would seek to be **connected relationally** in a smaller group space
3. That you would use your **God-given gifts** to build up One Hope and each other
4. That you would **give faithfully** to this local church
5. That you would **seek to resolve** all conflicts biblically
6. That you would **be accountable** to this local eldership team

## Ready to take the next step?

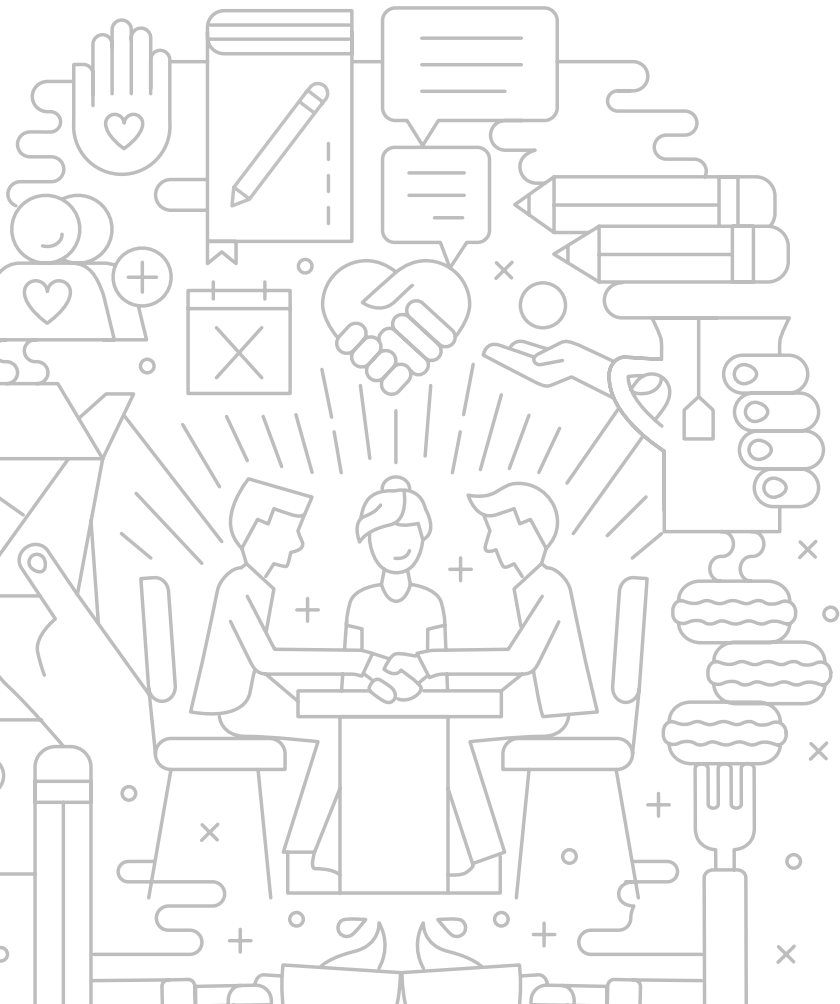
Scan the QR code to access the membership form or visit [www.onehopechurch.co.za/emform](http://www.onehopechurch.co.za/emform)





## APPENDIXES

For further reading, videos on relevant topics and our membership agreement, visit [www.onehopechurch.co.za/exploringmembership](http://www.onehopechurch.co.za/exploringmembership).





# SIGN UP

For One Hope  
news & information

1. Add 064 760 3509 as a contact
2. Send an opt-in\* WhatsApp with:
  - Your name + surname
  - Your email address
3. Join our WhatsApp community by scanning the code:



## CONNECT

Sundays 9:30am, Eikestad Primary

[www.onehopechurch.co.za](http://www.onehopechurch.co.za)

[info@onehopechurch.co.za](mailto:info@onehopechurch.co.za)

064 760 3509



@1hopechurch