

Dear friend,

We are delighted that you have expressed an interest in joining in membership at Hillview Community Church.

Here at Hillview, we don't see membership as primarily an administrative thing, but rather a very important, decisive acknowledgement of our unity in Christ and our family connectedness under God.

The primary focus of our understanding of membership is built around our Membership Covenant which can be found on the back of our notice sheet or online at <http://hillview.cc/membership>. This lays out six commitments which we make to God and to our fellow church members. Of course, we will stumble in our efforts here, so we regularly need the grace and help of God and the forgiveness of our church family. But we think these are six beautiful promises worth aspiring to. I hope you might agree!

If you're interested, I have preached a few sermons on church membership which you can find on the website. In particular, I preached a very practical message in Sept. 2013 which looked at why we even have such a thing as church membership; you can find that message [HERE](#). And there was also [a recent sermon](#) on the wonder of how we, in the church, are the family of God together.

So what happens now? The current process for joining in membership is as follows:

1. We ask everyone to complete the attached form. It's important to share that this form isn't intended to be a burden. It is simply to help us have a sense of your journey of faith so far, to give us some background for when we come to see you. **Please feel free to keep your answers very short.**

(If you would prefer the form in a Word document format, for filling in on a computer, please just email us and ask for this, and we'll email it to you.)

Once completed, please send your form back to us either by email or by post.

2. Once you get the forms to us, we'll inform the members of your application for membership, and we'll arrange for a couple of the elders to come and visit with you for an hour or so.

This gives us a chance to hear some of your story of faith in Jesus, and to consider together how best you might plug in to life at Hillview. We will also try and answer any questions you may have about Hillview; and, finally, we get the privilege of praying for you.

Our prayer, as a church, is that the Lord would "make our love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else" (1 Thess. 3:12). We would love you to be part of that. So we look forward to hearing back from you!

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to ask one of the elders.

With much love in Christ,

Martin J Clarke

## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

We're so glad that you're interested in joining Hillview as a member. This form is simply intended to help us get to know you better. Please don't worry if some of the answers are short. It's not a test!

### **Part 1 – PERSONAL DETAILS**

Title:

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Home Tel.:

Mobile Tel.:

Date of birth:

Spouse and children's names (if applicable):

Profession (if applicable):

### **Part 2 – APPLICATION FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

Summary of your story of faith in Jesus:

How has God been at work in your life recently?

Have you been baptised as a believer? If so, where (i.e. what church) & when were you baptised?

Reasons for requesting church membership at Hillview:

Are you transferring membership from another church?

If so, name and town of church where you are transferring from:

Name and contact details of church leader (if we intend to contact this person we will ask permission first):

Why did you leave your previous church? Are there any grievances, church discipline incidents or unresolved issues with the previous church? (please summarise)

What did you value most about your previous church?

*[the following documents which are mentioned can be found at [www.hillview.cc](http://www.hillview.cc) or by request]*

How would you describe your feelings towards [Hillview's Membership Covenant](#)?

How would you describe your feelings towards Hillview's [Values](#) and [Vision](#)?

Are you in agreement with our [Statement of Faith, and Church Constitution](#)? (please note any comments)

Hillview is a church which both looks to the Elders to provide Godly leadership, as well as understanding that, ideally, we discern the mind of Christ together as a broader church. What's your understanding on how a church should be led and how decisions – small and large – should be made?

### **Part 3 – PREVIOUS MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT**

What, if any, ministry areas have you been involved with in previous churches/Christian organisations?

What, if any, training for ministry have you received?

### **Part 4 – INVOLVEMENT IN HILLVIEW**

What areas of church life do you hope to gain from?

What areas of church life do you hope to give to? What gifts, skills or training do you have which you feel could be used in ministry at Hillview?

*(e.g. administration, artistic, interest in mission, music, practical skills, social concern, kids or youth work, etc.)*

Are there any areas of church life that you would like to know more about, or any other questions?

All members (who pay tax) are encouraged to consider giving by Gift Aid. Do you understand how this works?

Is there any other way we can help you grow and develop as a Christian?