

Banchory Christian



Membr

Inform

Rather, speaking the truth in love, & building one another up in love, as we are bound together by the bond of peace, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body is joined together by every joint with which it is bound, and is working properly, makes the body grow as we grow in Him.
Ephesians 4 :

Banchory Christian Fellowship Church is a c

t of the local church?

wship Church?

Questions:

1) Introduction

"What's the big deal about 'church'?" some of you might be asking. "I'm a Christian. Does it really matter whether I go to church? Can't I just pray at home? Do I have to become a member as well? And what about the people who don't go to church?"

If any of these questions interest you, then
your thinking. It does not pretend to cover
every question you might have about church
encourage further enquiry.

As a relatively young, non-denominational church, we have folks from a variety of backgrounds, we're curious and perhaps apprehensive about how we can best believe, how do we operate, where do we lead?

Hopefully, we can answer some of your questions and discover what we are like, or at least what we are not.

2) What is The Church?

So, what is the Church? It is possible to answer this question from two different angles. We can, as in the previous section, look at the Church in its' broadest sense, at the "Church Universal". We can also switch to a zoomed-in expression as found in the local church. We can use the expression of, "What is involved in being part of the local church?"

a. The Church Universal.

"Christ is the head of the church, his body,

“we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body
and each one of us
1 Corinthians:

s you were called to one hope when you
ism, one God and Father of all who is over
Ephesians 4:4,5

Hades will not overcome it” Matt. 16:18

elf up for her to make her holy....and to
ant church” Ephesians 5:25&27.

the church” Colossians 1:18.

er not to any particular local church or
al Church”. This term encompasses all true
s as well as the Christian church spread

esians 4) they become a member of this
e body of Christ. As such they have a
ad (Christ) but to other parts of the body.
the whole of the Bible knows nothing of
ding to go it alone.

ge this and indeed to get excited about it
about identifying with or committing to a
el that the important thing is that they
an is more important than belonging to a

esus (Ephesians 4:15), the ‘body’ is always
church. Indeed, if we switch from the wide
over that the overwhelming majority of
fer to a local, living, loving collection of
ommitted to each other.

Appendix: Stat

Part I; What We Believe

- The divine inspiration, authority, sufficiency
- The unity of the Godhead expressed in the Father, Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- The sovereignty of God in creation, providence
- The perfect Deity, virgin birth and humanity of Christ.
- The necessity of forgiveness and the consequences of disobedience and fall of humanity.
- The death of Christ on a cross as the atonement for sin and His subsequent burial, resurrection and ascension.
- The need for personal faith in Christ as the bridge between God and humanity.
- The work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration, sanctification, ministry and worship.
- The universal Church as the body of Christ, requiring personal faith in the redemptive work of Christ and the fellowship of true believers.
- The personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The resurrection of the body and the eternal blessedness of true believers and eternal offer of salvation.

Part II; We Believe in the Following Ordinances

- The baptism of believers by immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as an outward expression of faith in Christ.
- The observance of the Lord’s Supper by believers.

ou do find the perfect church don't join it,

d there are two types of churches. First of
biblically functioning communities and do
sus Christ. The correct response to such
nem (e.g. 1 John 2:19). The other type of
up of imperfect people trying, with the
cally functioning community. The correct
it yourself to it.

Throughout the book of Acts, the word
connection with specific local congregations.
This is continued in the letters of the New Testament
as pastoral responses to the particular problems of
1:2; Philippians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1).
can be excluded and in which therefore you

The Church then is the body of Christ, word
of Christians committed to Christ and to each other.

If you have stayed with us so far (and I hope you have),
yourself asking the following question;

c. What is involved in being part of the local church?

Let me suggest a few things. You may or may not agree,
minimum being part of the local church should be:

I. Reciprocal relationships

It is clear from the New Testament that the church is not
individuals simply meeting for a church service. It is not
be isolated, but to develop accountable relationships. This is
shown (John 13:34, 35; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27).
committing to a local church, we are grasping the opportunity to
be known. We are agreeing to help and support each other,
better than the local church when it is working.

II. Mutual ministry

In Romans 12:3-8 Paul describes the church as a body.
at Rome, as a 'body'. In this body all the members are
body works by all of them doing their part. Each member
to play in their local church. When Paul describes the church
stresses that each one has a particular gift.

word “ministry” comes from a Greek word. In New Testament teaching, every Christian is a minister. It is our ability to serve, support and admonish one another. We are encouraged to discover their spiritual gifts, and to find our part of Christian service within the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:2 and only think about ‘me doing what I can’. We have read them very well and have missed a key verse: “each member belongs to all the others” and “the body is made of many parts”. Everyone playing their part with mutual commitment.

And they do need to talk about their roles in the church. It does not make for a healthy relationship if one person makes vows for life, but the man only promises to do so.

It is not right to expect to be given a role to play. We are called to accept the responsibility and to do so. If we have formal Church membership. In the church we let the leadership and other members know we intend to be committed in attendance, and we are gifted and enabled us. We allow fellow members to know us in these areas, and we make it known to them. It is not “my work” but rather as the responsibility of this church. It gives our sense of ownership of the work of the church. We are not owners or consumers to joyful proprietors.

Another way that we demonstrate our commitment is in the giving of our time and resources.

- Insight into a person’s understanding of their role in terms of time, money and the use of resources.
- Assurance of the candidates understanding of the church’s overarching purpose.
- To encourage each member to be a full member and enables them.
- To ascertain what gifts and areas of service they have.

What are the responsibilities of church members?

These can be summarised in the words of the Apostle Paul:

“We confess our faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and we serve Him faithfully in the fellowship of His church.”

By the power of the Holy Spirit we will order our lives and will endeavour to set an example at all times to those who believe.

We promise to make diligent use of all the gifts and talents for growth.

We promise to promote the Lord’s work by our service, to preserve the unity of the Spirit by our good works and in all things to give our Lord glory.

5) Conclusions

We hope that this has helped you to think about joining a church like Banchory Christian Fellowship. It is not a church because you are perfect and you are committed there. Neither do you join a church because you are perfect and you are committed there.

statement. That is ultimately what we are
for us, that is what we intend to be about

ship?

h, anyone who professes faith in the Lord
reality of that in their lives is welcome to

mitment and not a mere formality. The
ne membership. It is important therefore
n the essential matters of the faith, as
(Appendix 1) and agree on the overarching
vision and values.

rly basis for those interested in exploring
ndicated a desire to join, two of the Elders
e and recommend to the fellowship that
p.

al

relationship to Jesus Christ and walk with

(Hebrews 13:16). Banchory Christian Fellowship
our only source of income is the giving of
that we just want you for your money. In
Lord, and to each other - how can we claim
we are not prepared to give of our time
important that every Christian recognises
and that giving is a part of our worship
money where your mouth is!' Therefore
resources to help support Missionaries and
you give, the more we give!

V. Teaching and leadership

Christians are not perfect people, if you
soon will! This means that we all have to
grow up into Christ' (Ephesians 4:11-16).

God has given to the Church teachers and
local church must therefore have in place
leadership. Whilst all of us are called to steward
specific gifts of teaching and leadership
Therefore, we are taught centrally from the
accordance with God's Word.

Teaching and leadership must go hand in
led according to God's design. Submission
popular concept these days, if indeed it
throughout the entire New Testament.
reprehensible and destructive, but not
leadership and discipline.

The leaders of this church are not perfect
affirmed by the members of the church and
is to support them and to willingly follow them

Church

ment in the local church in general, what we get here, what is our vision, what are

eside Christian Fellowship Church, which. A small group who had been living in the Christian Fellowship Church approached the them about the possibility of planting a t time beginning a process of substantial

n to begin a pilot series of services, which d with 3 children making up the Junior prospered the work and in June 2003 BCFC s the work continued to grow the church ber 2004 followed by a full-time Associate ch had moved into the purpose built

n our vision is to see, *“the making and Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to the*

is Trinitarian, Bible-based, Christ centred, ultimate end for the fellowship, the the wider world is nothing less than this. uidelines towards a balanced approach to

c. Our Values & Distinctives

- *We are evangelical in our theology: V only Saviour of the world.*
- *We teach the Bible and seek to apply it*
- *We recognise and support the ministry*
- *We seek to be open and welcoming church.*
- *We aim to grow in numbers as people Christ.*
- *We seek to grow in Christian maturity*
- *We are non-denominational: We stre the local church according to the Script*
- *We recognise Elders as those respon. 5:17; 1 Peter 5:2, 1 Thess. 5:12) and 1:9; 1 Tim 5:17). The Elders are collec and the overseers of the spiritual life for the feeding and care and ministry within the church in a way that is con Elder. Specifically, they have responsi of church life.*
- *We practice baptism of believers upon not a requirement for membership reflect upon the church’s understand baptism.*