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# *PEOPLES CHURCH OF MONTREAL*

*Discovering  
Membership  
Manual*

## Greetings!

Thank you for considering Membership here at Peoples Church. As you probably know, we are a very active congregation of about 450 people from all age groups and over 40 nations who take the Gospel seriously and seek *To Know Christ and Make Him Known*.

We see membership as an important step in committing yourself to a local church. Becoming a member is a way of making a public statement that you have chosen to be an active part of the life of the church. Making the commitment to be “part of the family” will be an exciting and beneficial experience!

As you look at the material contained in this manual, you’ll gain a better understanding of Peoples Church. You’ll see that “what” we believe affects “how” we operate as a church family. You’ll gain a deeper appreciation for the way our beliefs govern and guide our behaviors.

There’s one thing that we don’t want at Peoples. We do not want membership to be just a ritual. We believe strongly that being a member of Peoples Church should not be a passive thing. As members of the Body of Jesus Christ, we are all gifted and shaped by God to serve Him in a way that is unique to us. Peoples Church provides many dynamic service opportunities that can facilitate your joyful and satisfying work for Him here. As well, you will experience the closeness and support that church family membership offers.

Besides its privileges, membership carries its responsibilities. A pre-requisite, of course, is that you have a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Other requirements of church members are set out in the course material. These include recognizing the importance of the spiritual disciplines of prayer, regular study of Scripture, and the stewardship of your time, talent and financial resources. Other essentials include the kindness, consideration and patience with which we are to treat each other.

Let me assure you, however, that membership is indeed a wonderful thing, and there's no better place in which to experience its benefits than here at Peoples Church

My prayer is that as you officially join hands with the body of Christ at Peoples Church and as you allow His Word to speak to your heart, we will together be transformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s Service,

*Rev. Bryan Guinness*  
(Pastor)

## ***Discovering Membership at Peoples Church***

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**Our prayer is that this Discovering Membership Manual will help you connect more fully to Peoples Church of Montreal.**

Who are the members of Peoples Church? We are ordinary people from all walks of life and many racial and ethnic backgrounds who have discovered that Jesus Christ wants to transform our lives into something that bears eternal value. We are learning the joy of following Jesus Christ. We seek to share this joy and this relationship with others...with our family, friends and neighbors, with others in our region, and even with those who live in far flung nations of the world.

As you join with us, we would love to help you discover God's unique equipping in your life, and assist you in identifying the gifts God has graciously given to you. When we do ministry together as the body of Christ, we become the hands and feet of God in today's world. The extent that we serve together is the measure to which the ministry and the message of Christ are communicated. And this is an investment that will last for eternity.

The Church has specified five requirements for becoming a member:

1. A personal profession of Christ as both Savior and Lord.
2. A desire to live a Growing Christian Life (see page 8).
3. Completion of a Discovery Class and Reading through the Discovering Membership Manual.
4. A completed and signed Membership Application (p.22) which expresses an agreement to the Vision & Core Values (p.6), the Articles of Faith and Doctrine (p.10), and the Covenant of Membership of Peoples Church (p.21).
5. A satisfactory interview with the Membership Committee.

If these five requirements are met, then the person will be received into formal membership before the Lord and before the other members of the church.

**We look forward to worshipping and serving together with you!**

**In His service,**

### ***The Membership Committee***

Mr. Peter Cooney (Chairman)

Mrs. Madli Vogan

Rev. Bryan Guinness

# Discovering Membership at Peoples Church

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# WHO WE ARE

## *Our History*

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Peoples Church of Montreal was founded in 1938, a time when the world was just recovering from the Great Depression and people were fearful that a second world war was about to break out.

A group of dedicated Christians from a variety of denominations, whose core beliefs were centered on the authority of the Scriptures, had been meeting regularly for a few years under the guidance of the Scripture Testimony League. Their meetings were held in the former First Baptist Church, located on the corner of Sherbrooke and Union Street, the present location of Peoples Church. On March 24, 1938 following a successful two week Evangelistic Campaign conducted by the Rev. John Linton, a number of area businessmen met with Rev. Linton, expressing the desire that he come to Montreal to start a new church. On June 6th a telegram was received with the following message: "Have mailed letter today accepting call. Regards, Linton." Rev. John Linton was pastor of Peoples from 1938-1940. Since that time there have been nine other senior pastors including the longest serving, the Rev. Francis G. Humphrey, PhD., whose tenure began in 1978 and continues to this day.

Significant events in the church's history include:

- Joining The Associated Gospel Churches of Canada (AGC) on May 25, 1945.
- Sunday afternoon broadcasting of a 30 minute Christian program known as The Peoples Gospel Hour on radio station CJAD in 1945. Other programs were added from time to time with emphasis on children's interests and needs as well as pastoral sermons or devotionals. Though we are no longer on the radio, we now have made the Sunday Sermons available online ([www.peopleslibraryonline.ca](http://www.peopleslibraryonline.ca)).
- A major fire on a Saturday evening in February of 1951 during which the sanctuary burned to the ground.
- Official opening of the rebuilt church building in August of 1952.
- Major renovation of the basement level to improve offices, kitchen, library, restroom and nursery areas plus addition of an elevator to provide handicap/wheelchair access to the upper and lower levels.
- Going to two Sunday morning worship services in 2005 to reduce overcrowding.
- Celebrating in 2008 the 70th Anniversary of our church's founding.

On any given Sunday at Peoples Church, about 450 people gather to worship the Lord from over 40 different nations. This diversity enriches our local ministry and keeps us more aware of the urgent need to take the gospel to the whole world. Our prayer for anyone who comes to our church is that they might personally experience the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14)

## ***Our Vision***

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### **Our Priority:**

To Know Christ and Make Him Known

### **Our Profile:**

A regional, multinational, Bible-teaching Ministry in downtown Montreal.

### **Our Purpose:**

We are led by God to bring people to salvation in Christ, connect with one another as members of God's family, grow together into Christ-like maturity, and equip each other for service in the church and our life mission in the world, in order to glorify God's name.

## ***Our Core Values***

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Five core values lie at the center of what we believe, who we are, and what we do. We believe these values are essential for genuine transformation of people's lives. These values flow out of our purpose statement. They are:

### **Worship** (*Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:18-20; Matt. 4:10; John 4:24*)

Worshipping God is central to our gatherings. We seek to worship God through Bible-centered, Spirit-anointed preaching; inspirational singing; observance of the ordinances (communion and baptism); corporate and personal prayer; personal and public reading of the scriptures; and the giving of our offerings to the work of the Lord. For some people, worship is synonymous with music. But worship is far more than music that we sing. True worship actually begins when a person places their faith in the person of Jesus Christ, believing in His death and resurrection as sufficient payment for their sin. True worship then continues as a lifestyle of responding to God's revelation of Himself with mind and heart in ways that declare the greatness of who He is. Worship means honoring God by offering our "bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God." (Rom.12:1). In fact every activity we do inside or outside church can be transformed into an act of worship when we do it for the praise, glory, and honor of God.

### **Community** (*Eph. 4:1-6; Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42*)

Genuine biblical community means living in caring relationships that are guided by biblical truth and grounded in spiritual accountability. We are to belong, not just to believe. Community means moving away from living isolated lives and moving towards connecting with one another in authentic fellowship. Over 50 times in the New Testament the phrase 'one another' or 'each other' is used. Some examples are: Encourage one another (Heb.10:25); Teach ... Admonish ... Forgive ... (Col.3:16); Honor ... Be Devoted to...(Rom.12:10); Pray for... (James 5:13-16); Accept... (Rom.15:7); Submit to... (Eph.5:21); and Serve one another... (Gal.5:13). All of these

can only happen as we value community. Real and lasting life change – spiritual transformation – only occurs in the unity and diversity of authentic relationships.

**Growth** (*Eph. 4:14-16; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:28; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Tim. 4:12*)

Spiritual growth means that over time we are becoming, looking, and acting more and more like Jesus Christ. True spiritual growth has to do with “being transformed into his likeness.” (2 Cor.3:18) What this means is that spiritual maturity is measured as much in our lifestyle as it is in our learning. A commitment to growth is not easy, because growth means change, and change is difficult. However, growth means we are living, really living, as the life of Christ is reproduced in our own lives.

**Service** (*Acts 2:45; Ephesians 2:10; 4:11-13; Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 4:10-11*)

Jesus demonstrated that the most influential life is a life of sacrificial service. In the words of Mark’s gospel, Jesus “came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mk.10:45) Likewise, we believe that we will influence the world for Christ, when resting in, and motivated by His great love for us, we extend that love through our own hands and feet in acts of service to others. We are saved to serve and service happens when each person uses “whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

**Mission** (*Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Cor. 5:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:13-15,17*)

Jesus gave his church a mission: “To go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matt.28:19). We are to be witnesses to the whole world of Christ’s coming, his death for our sins, his resurrection, his ascension, and his promise to return. Sharing this good news in the power of the Holy Spirit is the responsibility and privilege of every believer in Jesus Christ. Witnessing is not merely talking about Jesus but also whetting people’s appetites for Christ by the way we live.

## **Our Strategy**

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Our strategy as a church is to provide an environment where the core values of worship, growth, community, service, and mission can flourish, be experienced, and be lived out individually and corporately. As a church, we attempt to provide an environment where our people can grow to spiritual maturity – which means that over time we are becoming, looking, and acting more and more like Jesus Christ (2 Cor.4:18). This process is called living a growing Christian life. A commitment to growth is not easy, because growth means change, and change is difficult. However, growth means we are living, really living, as the life of Christ is reproduced in our own lives. Living a growing Christian life is a life-long journey. At Peoples, we have a four-pronged approach to maturing in our Christian faith and living **A Growing Christian L.I.F.E.:**

### **Lavish Worship,**

We seek to experience the life-changing power of the Word of God through Bible-centered, Spirit-anointed preaching; inspirational singing; observance of the ordinances (communion and baptism); corporate and personal prayer; the public reading of the scriptures; and the giving of our offerings to the work of the Lord. (*Matt. 22:37; John 4:24; Romans 12:1, Hebrews 13:15*)

### **Intentional Community,**

We seek to encourage, support, exhort and pray for one another in the family of God as we build meaningful relationships with each other through small groups and other fellowship opportunities offered by the Church. (*Acts 2:42-47; John 13:34-35; Romans 15:5,7; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 John 1:7; 4:12*)

### **Faithful Service,**

We seek to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of those in our church, community and world by the use of our spiritual gifts, time, talents and possessions. (*Matt. 25:34-40; Acts 2:45; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Thess. 5:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11; James 2:26*)

### **Effective Mission,**

We seek to share the Good News (Gospel) of Jesus Christ with our friends, neighbors, colleagues and those who God brings across our path. As a church and in cooperation with other churches and Christian ministries, we go and make disciples of all nations and trust the Lord to add to His church daily those who are being saved. (*Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 2:47; 2 Peter 3:9*)

As a church, we attempt to provide an environment where our people can grow to maturity in the above four areas. Firstly, private and corporate **worship** is a key ingredient to growth. You can grow in your personal relationship with Jesus Christ by

daily spending time with the Lord in prayer and studying His word. Secondly, we ask members to intentionally seek out **community** by being part of a small group, such as a Cell Group. Thirdly, we expect members to be involved in faithful **service** with other believers. Finally, we strongly believe in personal and global **mission**. It is every member's responsibility and privilege to share the good news, in the workplace and the neighborhood. Throughout the year we participate in door-to-door outreach in our local neighborhood. As a church, we partner with many missionaries around the globe, and we send and support short-term mission teams every year. One quarter of every dollar given to Peoples Church goes towards missions.

In the paragraph above, we attempted to cover opportunities our Church provides for believers to grow. However, the one activity that is indispensable is the incorporation of daily spiritual disciplines into one's life to cultivate a close relationship with the Lord. Our busy lifestyles make this difficult, but perhaps even more essential. Find time each day to spend in prayer and meditation upon His Word. Develop a habit of study, prayer and reflection, finding a suitable time and place that works for you. Then introduce enough variety and spontaneity to keep your relationship close. If you are experiencing a dryness or deadness in your walk with the Lord, most of us have found that a laxness in our devotional life is most often the cause.

There are two essential processes that must take place for growth to happen. The first one is "separation", and the second is "sanctification". Both are outlined in Romans 12:1-2. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will." The Bible speaks of the world in two ways. Firstly there is the world of people that God loves. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world..." But secondly, the Bible speaks of the world meaning the values and influences that are opposed to God's rule and reign. In this second sense, the world and everything in it has a corrupting and deadening effect on the Christian. The new Christian must begin a process of renewal that negates the world's influences. This passage calls this "not conforming any longer to the pattern of this world". This is not a withdrawal from the world, but involves a determination not to allow the world shape our views, values and beliefs. Unfortunately, some Christians feel that this "separation" means they are to withdraw from non-believers and only associate with like-minded Christians. What the Scriptures clearly teach is for us to be salt and light in the world (i.e. to our non-believing friends in our family, neighbourhood and workplace), while ensuring that we are not conformed to a way of thinking contrary to Christ. The "ambassador" metaphor demonstrates this concept effectively. An ambassador relates well to his host country without ever betraying the values and priorities of the country where he is a citizen. The Christian relates to his world while remaining true to his heavenly citizenship.

Sanctification involves moving towards something, particularly a life that is guided and directed by Christ, through the power of His Holy Spirit. The word "sanctification" means being set apart for His service, requiring the transformation referred to in Romans 12:2. Both separation and sanctification involve a struggle or battle against the real enemies of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

## ***Our Beliefs***

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As a member of the Associated Gospel Churches of Canada ([www.agcofcanada.org](http://www.agcofcanada.org)) we hold to the following Articles of Faith and Doctrine:

### **1. The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture**

We believe the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, as originally given by God are divinely inspired, without error, entirely trustworthy, and constitute the only supreme authority in all matters of faith, teaching and behavior.

(II Peter 1:21; Mark 12:26-36; II Timothy 3:16-17; Acts 1:16; Hebrews 4:12)

### **2. The Trinity of the Godhead**

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and are worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience.

(Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:6-8; John 1:1-4; Isaiah 63:8-10; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:1; Mark 12:29; Revelation 1:4-6; Hebrews 1:1-3)

### **3. The Deity and the Virgin Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe in the essential deity of our Lord Jesus Christ and His total humanity through the virgin birth, and that all the Scriptures from first to last centre about Him, His person and work, His sacrificial death upon the cross and His coming again.

(Acts 26:22-23; John 5:39; Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:35:24:44; Acts 17:2-3; 18:28; Isaiah 7:14; Acts 28:23; Acts 1:11)

### **4. The Personality, Deity and Present Mission of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine personality—the eternal third Person of the Trinity—who is now, throughout this Age of Grace, here present in the true Church, having been sent for the express purpose of revealing Christ Jesus to the members of the Church, that they may be comforted, instructed, and built up in their most holy faith, and to the world that sinners may be convicted of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

(John 7:38-39; 14:16-17; 15:26; John 16:13-15; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4)

### **5. The Fall of Humanity**

We believe that human beings, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell from their high and holy estate through disobedience, by eating the forbidden fruit, and in consequence, the threatened penalty of death was then and there inflicted, so that they totally lost all spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and subject to the power of the devil.

(Genesis 1:26; 2:17; Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:1-3; I John 3:8; I Timothy 5:6; John 5:40; 6:53)

### **6. The Total Depravity of Humans**

We believe that this spiritual death, or total corruption of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire race of human beings, the man Christ Jesus alone excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born into the world with a sinful nature.

(Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:6; Psalms 14:1-3; 51:5; Romans 5:12-19)

### **7. Salvation by Grace through Faith**

We believe that sinners are saved by grace through faith alone and that not of themselves, it is the gift of God, not of works. We further believe that every saved person is “justified from all things from which he could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

(Acts 13:39; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1; 3:25-26; Titus 2:11-14)

### **8. The Atonement of the Blood of Christ**

We believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin, and made a curse for us, dying in our place, a Sacrifice acceptable to God and effectual for every sinner who receives Him.

(Leviticus 17:11; Galatians 3:13; Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7; John 1:12; I Peter 1:18-19; 2:24; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:6-9)

### **9. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit**

We believe that, owing to the universal depravity and death in sin, no one can see or enter the kingdom of God unless born of the Spirit whereby he becomes a new creation, sealed unto the day of Redemption.

(John 3:5-8; James 1:18; Galatians 6:15; I Peter 1:23; Ephesians 1:13; I John 5:1; Titus 3:5)

### **10. The Believer’s Eternal Salvation**

We believe in the eternal salvation of all who are actually born again by the Spirit of God through faith in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, and that it is the privilege of all such to be assured of their present salvation and eternal life.

(John 5:24; Hebrews 10:24; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:28-39; I John 5:11-13; Philippians 1:6)

### **11. Sanctification**

We believe that all the members of the body of Christ are “sanctified ones” (saints), are perfected as to their standing forever by the one offering of the blood of Christ, and are one with Christ in sanctification. As to their state, they may be sanctified by the Word, by the blood of Christ, and by the in-working presence and power of the Holy Spirit which should issue in behavior indicating the fruit of the Spirit.

(Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 5:25-27; John 17:17-19; I John 1:7-9; Romans 15:16; Jude 1; I Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 4:22-24; Hebrews 2:11; 10:10; 13:12)

### **12. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

We believe that when the Holy Spirit came upon the whole company of believers on the Day of Pentecost as promised by Christ, they were collectively baptized into one body, which was the birth of the Church, the Body of Christ. Since that time this baptism occurs individually at the moment of salvation, at which time the believer is also indwelt by the Spirit. We believe that the New Testament distinguishes between being indwelt by the Spirit, which is true of all believers, and being filled with the Spirit, which is the believer’s privilege and duty, producing power in Christian witness. There is one baptism with the Spirit, and it is into the Body of Christ, but there are many fillings.

(John 14:15-18; I Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:9; Matthew 3:11; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4: 4:8-31; Ephesians 1:13-14)

### **13. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church to glorify Christ in the building of His body. We believe that God, the Holy Spirit, is sovereign in the bestowing of His gifts for the perfecting of the saints for the work of their ministry, and that it is not God's will that any one gift should be given to all believers, although all believers have at least one gift. We believe that whenever spiritual gifts are exercised, they should always be within the limits expressly given in the Scriptures (e.g. I Corinthians 14:23-40). We believe that in the early church speaking in tongues (a human language unknown to the speaker), and the working of miracles were sign gifts demonstrated primarily to authenticate God's revelation through the apostles and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We believe that today such signs are not necessary to give evidence of the baptism or of the filling of the Spirit, nor are they a mark of spiritual maturity. We believe that special divine revelation for authoritative Scripture ceased with the Apostolic Age.

(Acts 2:1-13 ; Hebrews 2:3-4; I Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 2:20; Romans 12:3-8; John 14:26; I Peter 4:7-11; Galatians 1:8-9; Ephesians 4:11-13; Revelation 22:18-29; II Corinthians 12:12)

### **14. The Unity of the True Church in the mystical Body of Christ**

We believe that the Church is composed of all who are united by the Holy Spirit to the risen and ascended Son of God, and that "by the same Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles", thus being members one of another and knit together in love.

(Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:3-10; I Corinthians 12:12-27; Colossians 2:19)

### **15. The Pre-Millennial Coming of Our Lord**

We believe that this present age will end with the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, first to receive His Church unto Himself, and then to establish the throne of David upon the earth and to reign in righteousness over it for a thousand years.

(II Samuel 7:16; John 14:1-3; Psalms 72:7-8; Acts 1:10-11; Titus 2:13; Isaiah 9:6-7; Hebrews 9:28; Micah 5:2; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 1:32-33)

### **16. The Resurrection of the Body**

We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures, in bodily form, and thus became the firstfruits of them that sleep; that upon His return He will raise out from among the dead those that have died in Christ, this being the first resurrection; and that, after the thousand years, He will raise them that have died in unbelief from their graves to receive their sentence.

(Psalms 90:3-4; John 5:28,29; Isaiah 26:19; I Corinthians 15; Daniel 12:2; Romans 1:4; 8:23; Revelation 20:5-6)

### **17. The Eternal Blessedness of the Saved, and the Eternal Punishment of the Lost**

We believe that the attitude either of reconciliation or enmity toward God is fixed eternally at death, and that the saints of all the ages will be forever with the Lord and will become joint heirs with Him as their Redeemer in His inheritance. We further believe that there is an appointed day for the judgment of the wicked when they will be cast into

the Lake of Fire, there to remain forever and ever, in varying degrees of torment according to their works.

(I Thessalonians 4:17; II Peter 2:9; Romans 8:17; Daniel 12:3; 7:22-27; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8; 22:11)

### **18. The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning and the great deceiver of all nations; that he will be overcome by the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Seed of the woman, and cast into the Bottomless Pit for a thousand years, and finally committed to the Lake of Fire with all his angels to be tormented forever and ever.

(II Corinthians 11:13-15; Job 1:6-12; Genesis 3:15; John 8:44; Ephesians 6:12-16; Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10)

### **19. Divine Healing of the Body**

We believe that divine healing of the body is not in the Atonement in the sense that salvation and forgiveness of sins are in the Atonement. The suffering and death of Christ according to the New Testament was substitutionary, penal and vicarious. It is nowhere taught in Scripture that Christ died for the effects of sin but for sin, and sickness is directly or indirectly the effect of sin.

(Romans 4:25; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24; 3:18)

### **20. Baptism**

We believe that the New Testament clearly prescribes baptism for believing disciples as a symbol and proclamation of the believer's death to sin and resurrection to new life. Further we believe and practice immersion as the mode of baptism prescribed by the New Testament in accordance with its word meanings, examples, and symbolism.

(Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38; 8:12 Romans 6:3)

### **21. The Lord's Supper**

We believe that our Lord and Savior clearly prescribed for His believing disciples the solemn rite of the Lord's Supper as a memorial of the Lord's death to be kept by His disciples until He comes again, according to His promise and the Father's revealed plan.

(I Corinthians 11:23-27; Luke 22:19-20)

## ***Our Church Government***

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Successful churches use a variety of governance models, and most of them can be supported from the Scriptures. Jesus never spent much time teaching about Church Government, and neither did His Apostles. Whatever form it takes, the model should advance the work while preserving the unity of the Body.

### **How Does the Church Operate?**

At Peoples Church our form of church government is congregational. This means that the church members have the final say on how the church is run.

First, it is self-governing, under the Lordship of Christ. Peoples voluntarily associates with other like-minded churches in Canada. Since 1945 it has been a member of the Associated Gospel Churches of Canada. ([www.agcofcanada.com](http://www.agcofcanada.com))

Second, the membership calls **Pastors** to lead the work, to preach, teach and equip members to carry out the work of the ministry.

Third, the membership elects **The Board of Deacons** to direct and protect the operation of the church. The government of the church is vested in its membership executed through the Board of Deacons. The Board oversees the business transactions and general work of the church. At all times the Board is subject to the majority vote of the church members. The Board of Deacons, which comprises no more than 12 elected lay leaders in addition to the pastors, meets once per month and reports to the members.

Fourth, the membership elects **The Committee of Elders** which assist the Pastors in shepherding the congregation with pastoral care and concern; in discerning the spiritual state of the body as a whole; in guarding against doctrinal error; and in dealing with issues of conduct, discipline and spiritual concern or any matter they deem necessary for the ministry of the church.

Fifth, certain **Ministry Leaders** are appointed by the members to conduct the various programs and ministries of the church. All recognized organizations and ministries of the church are ultimately accountable to the Board.

Sixth, the membership elects a **Women's Committee** to conduct and oversee various areas of church life that involve community life.

Lastly, the Board, Pastors and Ministry Leaders report to the members annually, through an **Annual Report** and an **Annual Meeting**, reporting on the work of the ministry and the plans for the coming year.

### ***Qualifications of Leaders***

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The Scriptural qualifications for elders and deacons are spelled out in *1 Timothy 3:1-11* and cited from *Titus 1:6-9* (NIV):

“An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless-not overbearing, not quick tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”

### ***Roles of Men and Women***

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Based on Scripture, we believe that God created us male and female equally in His image, with dignity and great value. He also designed men and women with beneficial differences. Our differences are complementary, and this is for our joy and to fulfill God’s perfect plan for the family and for the church. Men and women who follow Christ are equally endowed with spiritual gifts and are called to exercise these gifts to enrich His Church so that the world, through the Church, might be powerfully touched and changed by the love of Christ.

With God’s complementary design come complementary roles. The Word of God establishes some differences in our roles as men and women in the church as we use our gifts. We concur with a statement produced by the Council of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood ([www.cbmw.org](http://www.cbmw.org)) known as the Danvers Statement, which underlines our equality and blessings in Christ while affirming that God designed some governing and teaching roles within the church exclusively for men. We interpret Scriptures to mean that women may serve in any ministry and leadership position in the church with the exception of pastor, elder, or deacon.

### ***Governing Documents***

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Peoples Church is governed by its Constitution which is included as Appendix C.

## ***Our Ministry Staff***

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### **Senior Pastor**

Dr. Frank Humphrey, born and raised in Montreal, received Christ as his Savior and Lord in 1964. He began his pastorate at Peoples Church in 1978. Dr. Humphrey holds a B.A. (Bishops), Dip. Ed. (McGill), M.Div. (Canadian Theological College), Th.M. (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School), and a Ph.D (McGill) in Hebrew Old Testament. He is a gifted Bible Teacher and Scholar. He and his wife Daria have three children who are now young adults.

### **Pastor**

Rev. Bryan Guinness grew up in Montreal and came to know Christ at a young age. He obtained a B.Sc. from McGill in 1999 and was heading in the direction of Medicine when God used a number of circumstances to redirect him into full-time ministry. He joined *Youth For Christ* where he served as a pastor to youth for four years and then in 2003 he came to Peoples. Bryan holds a M.A. from Acadia University (Faculté de Théologie Évangélique) and he has a passion to preach God's Word, showing how Biblical principles intersect with human needs. He and his wife Erin have a daughter and a son.

### **Ministry Director**

Peter Cooney joined the Ministry Staff in 2001. Peter, who has a B.A. from Concordia, came to Peoples from being on staff with *Word of Life Fellowship* in Schroon Lake, NY. Peter, who was also born and raised in Montreal, loves people and he is gifted in administration. He has been married to Sue since 1965 and they have four grown daughters and nine grandchildren.

### **Youth Pastor**

Philip Penalosa grew up in Montreal. He recently completed his B.Th at Concordia University. He is creative, energetic, and musical. He has a passion for young people, especially teenagers, because as a teenager God got a hold of his life and began calling him to full-time ministry.

### **Administrative Assistant**

Nancy Freeman has been the Administrative Assistant at Peoples since 1992 and she brings great order to the church office. She is a native of Quebec and holds a B.A. in English Literature and Adult Education. Nancy loves teaching, music, and really enjoys outdoor activities, especially camping.

### **Media & Communications Director**

Jonathan Sturgeon was born and raised in Montreal. He currently runs a photography/video company shooting weddings and music videos. Jonathan is excited to be using his gifts and serving God at Peoples Church in the heart of his favorite city, Montreal.

# ***BECOMING A MEMBER***

## ***Introducing Membership***

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Today, most people associate the term membership with paying dues, meaningless rituals, secret handshakes, and having your name on some dusty list. The Bible however, paints a different view of membership. The Bible teaches that when a person receives Jesus into his life, repenting of sin, and turning to God for forgiveness, then at that moment he is born again.

- John 1:12 – “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

So, receiving Christ as Savior and Lord gives you a spiritual birth. The reason we need this is because we have an inborn sinful nature which makes our spirit dead. We need a spiritual birth to enter into God's kingdom. And that spiritual birth happens when we turn from sin to God putting our faith in Jesus alone for salvation. At that moment we receive the Holy Spirit and are saved. According to the Bible this spiritual baptism places us automatically into membership in the body of Christ.

- 1 Cor.12:12-13 – “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body.”

So Membership in God's universal church, called the body of Christ, happens automatically at the moment of salvation. Jesus Christ is the Head and believers make up the body. Each believer is related to all other believers in an inter-dependent way. This is an invisible reality. But, there is another kind of membership which is more of a visible reality. And that is the kind of membership that we're focusing on here. It is membership in a local church.

Acts 15 gives us an interesting picture of the New Testament Church. Read the chapter to get a picture of the New Testament Churches in Antioch and Jerusalem. V.3 says “the church” sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to deal with a doctrinal disagreement. (there is no such thing as a perfect church. Even the New Testament Church had problems to deal with). When they got there v.4 says they were welcomed by “the church”. In v.12 there is a reference to “the whole assembly” in Jerusalem. And v.22 says that “the whole church” decided to send representatives from the Jerusalem church to Antioch. And, when they got to Antioch they called together “the church” (v.30). What is the point here in all this? The point is that in both the church in Antioch and the church in Jerusalem there was a group of believers who comprised the church outwardly and visibly. There was some kind of accepted means of determining who the church was comprised of. Did they have some kind of formal membership procedure? We don't know. But when the leadership decided to call the church together, they would have to know who was on the list.

## ***The Benefits of Membership***

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Why should you consider becoming a Church Member?

### **1) Membership provides a spiritual family to strengthen and encourage you**

A Christian who isn't connected to a local church is like a child without a family. 1 Tim.3:15 and Eph.2:19 refer to the church as God's family. God doesn't want his spiritual children growing up in isolation from each other, so he created a spiritual family on earth for us. Membership is a way of signifying your belonging to the family of God in that it formally connects you with other believers for your strengthening and encouragement.

### **2) Membership gives you spiritual accountability in order to grow**

One of the goals of diligent pastors is to keep watch over the believers under their care. (Heb.13:17). Membership is a way of saying that you want to be under their spiritual care, guidance, and protection. Membership gives you a kind of accountability before other believers and before your leaders which ultimately helps you grow in your walk with Christ.

Do you see what these two benefits have in common? Church membership formalizes and cements a bond between like-minded believers. In that sense it has a very important spiritual benefit. But there is also a further benefit:

### **3) Membership allows you to participate in the ongoing decisions and direction of the church**

At Peoples Church, our form of church government is congregational. This means that the church members have the final say on how the church is run. In practical terms we have to be able to identify our members who have the privilege and responsibility to vote on important decisions that affect the life and direction of the church.

Church membership is important. Some people put it off with excuses like "I am not a joiner" or "I don't believe it is necessary". If you are a Christian, you have already been joined to His Body, the Church (*Ephesians 2:19*). Becoming a member of your local church is acknowledging that fact, and celebrating it. Therefore, we would encourage you to complete the process and not to put it off.

## ***The Requirements of Becoming a Member***

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There is an interesting statement about two types of commitment by the Christians of the first century in Macedonia: "They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will." (2 Cor.8:5). Becoming a member of Peoples Church means that a person is committing themselves first to the Lord and then to the local body of Christ.

The Church has specified five requirements for becoming a member:

1. A personal profession of Christ as both Savior and Lord.
2. A desire to live a Growing Christian Life (see page 8).
3. Completion of a Discovery Class and Reading through the Discovering Membership Manual.
4. A completed and signed Membership Application (p.22) which expresses an agreement to the Vision & Core Values (p.6), the Articles of Faith and Doctrine (p.10), and the Covenant of Membership of Peoples Church (p.21).
5. A satisfactory interview with the Membership Committee.

If these five requirements are met, then the person will be received into formal membership before the Lord and before the other members of the church.

## ***The Responsibilities of a Member***

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The expectations for a member are outlined in the Covenant of Membership (see Appendix A). They can be broken down into three components seen below. The words in parenthesis are quotes from the Covenant of Membership. Members are responsible to:

### **1. Protect the Unity of the church by:**

- i) Acting in love toward others  
*(We will walk together in brotherly love...)*
- ii) Encouraging others and refusing to gossip  
*(...and seek to be a practical help and encouragement to one another.)*
- iii) Handling interpersonal conflicts according to the steps outlined in Scripture  
*(We will not bring to the church a complaint against any member for personal offence until we have taken the first two steps pointed out by Christ (Matt. 18:15-17). In this way we will endeavor to settle all private offences without making the matter a public issue.)*
- iv) Joyfully submitting to the leadership and direction of the church.

### **2. Share in the Responsibility of the church by:**

- i) Regularly observing the spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible reading  
*(We maintain regular private prayer and the reading of God's Word, earnestly seeking the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.)*
- ii) Attending church regularly and connecting with other believers in a small group  
*(We will regularly attend the public worship of God on the Lord's Day, as far as Providence permits, and any other meetings for worship that the church may schedule and we will observe together the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.)*
- iii) Being an ongoing witness of the Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
*(We will seek also to send the Good News to the whole world. As we are given opportunity, we will seek by personal example and spoken word, to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.)*

### **3. Support the Ministry and Testimony of the church by:**

- i) Discovering our spiritual gifts and talents and serving in a ministry of the church  
*(We give ourselves wholeheartedly to His service and take His Word as the guide for our life.)*
- ii) Living a growing Christian life  
*(We will endeavor to live authentic Christian lives in true godliness, abstaining from anything that is unworthy of Christ and His gospel. As believer's baptism signifies death to sin and resurrection to holiness, so we will seek to walk in newness of life for God's glory.)*
- iii) Leading our families spiritually  
*(We, who are the heads of families, will maintain Christian standards and devotions in our homes, and will endeavor to lead our children, or others committed to our charge, to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and growth in the Christian life.)*
- iv) Generous Giving to the church  
*(We will financially support a faithful Christian ministry among us, as the Lord prospers us. We will seek also to send the Good News to the whole world.)*

# ***APPENDIX A***

## ***The Covenant of Membership***

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We confess Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior in the presence of all. We give ourselves wholeheartedly to His service and take His Word as the guide for our life. Having been united by saving faith to Him, we now as a church of Christ, unite with one another in this Covenant:

We will maintain regular private prayer and the reading of God's Word, earnestly seeking the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We, who are the heads of families, will maintain Christian standards and devotions in our homes, and will endeavor to lead our children, or others committed to our charge, to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and growth in the Christian life.

We will regularly attend the public worship of God on the Lord's Day, as far as Providence permits, and any other meetings for worship that the church may schedule, and we will observe together the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

We will walk together in brotherly love and seek to be a practical help and encouragement to one another. We will not bring to the church a complaint against any member for personal offence until we have taken the first two steps pointed out by Christ (Matt. 18:15-17). In this way we will endeavor to settle all private offences without making the matter a public issue.

We will financially support a faithful Christian ministry among us, as the Lord prospers us. We will seek also to send the Good News to the whole world. As we are given opportunity, we will seek by personal example and spoken word, to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

We will endeavor to live authentic Christian lives in true godliness, abstaining from anything that is unworthy of Christ and His gospel. As believer's baptism signifies death to sin and resurrection to holiness, so we will seek to walk in newness of life for God's glory.

# ***APPENDIX B***

## ***Membership Application***

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### **General Information**

**Name: Mr. / Mrs. / Miss**

(first)

(last)

**Address:**

(number/street/)

(City)

(Province)

(Postal Code)

**Phone:** (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Marital Status:** \_\_\_\_\_ (single / divorced / married)

### **Questions of Doctrinal Belief**

**-Do you believe the Bible to be the Word of God and that therein only is set forth the way of salvation?** \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or no)

**-Have you realized in yourself that unless redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ you are eternally lost?** \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or no)

**-Have you experienced the forgiveness of your sins made possible by the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross as your substitute?** \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or no)

**- Do you now yield yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ?** \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or no)

### **Questions of Christian Experience**

**How long have you been a born-again believer?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you had any previous Church Membership?** \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or no)

**Have you been baptized since becoming a born-again believer?** \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or no)

**Do you have a desire to live A Growing Christian Life?** \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or no)

**How and when did you come to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?**

(please write out your testimony on the back of this page or on a separate sheet)

### **Question of Membership**

**Have you read and do you understand and agree with the Church's Vision & Core Values, the Articles of Faith & Doctrine, and the Covenant of Membership?**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or no)

**Signature of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# **APPENDIX C**

## **Constitution: Peoples Church of Montreal**

*Revised November 6, 2007  
Revised November 14, 2001  
Revised April, 1992  
Revised June 1, 1972  
Original Constitution – May 16, 1945*

### **ARTICLE 1**

#### **Name**

The name of this church shall be “The Peoples Church, Montreal,” commonly referred to as “Peoples Church of Montreal.”

### **ARTICLE 2**

#### **Statement of Purpose**

We are led by God to bring people to salvation in Christ, connect with one another as members of God’s family, grow together into Christ-like maturity, and equip each other for service in the church and our life mission in the world, in order to glorify God’s name.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **Articles of Faith and Doctrine**

As contained in the Associated Gospel Churches Constitution (*revised June, 2004*)

**To be interpreted as expressed in and according to the Natural and Literal meaning of the respective passages of the Word of God referred to under each Article.**

#### **I The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture**

We believe the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, as originally given by God are divinely inspired, without error, entirely trustworthy, and constitute the only supreme authority in all matters of faith, teaching and behavior.

(II Peter 1:21; Mark 12:26-36; II Timothy 3:16-17; Acts 1:16; Hebrews 4:12)

#### **II The Trinity of the Godhead**

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and are worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience.

(Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:6-8; John 1:1-4; Isaiah 63:8-10; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:1; Mark 12:29; Revelation 1:4-6; Hebrews 1:1-3)

#### **III The Deity and the Virgin Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe in the essential deity of our Lord Jesus Christ and His total humanity through the virgin birth, and that all the Scriptures from first to last centre about Him, His person and work, His sacrificial death upon the cross and His coming again.

(Acts 26:22-23; John 5:39; Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:35:24:44; Acts 17:2-3; 18:28; Isaiah 7:14; Acts 28:23; Acts 1:11)

#### **IV The Personality, Deity and Present Mission of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine personality—the eternal third Person of the Trinity—who is now, throughout this Age of Grace, here present in the true Church, having been sent for the express purpose of revealing Christ Jesus to the members of the Church, that they may be comforted, instructed, and built up in their most holy faith, and to the world that sinners may be convicted of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. (John 7:38-39; 14:16-17; 15:26; John 16:13-15; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4)

#### **V The Fall of Humanity**

We believe that human beings, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell from their high and holy estate through disobedience, by eating the forbidden fruit, and in consequence, the threatened penalty of death was then and there inflicted, so that they totally lost all spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and subject to the power of the devil.

(Genesis 1:26; 2:17; Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:1-3; I John 3:8; I Timothy 5:6; John 5:40; 6:53)

#### **VI The Total Depravity of Humans**

We believe that this spiritual death, or total corruption of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire race of human beings, the man Christ Jesus alone excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born into the world with a sinful nature.

(Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:6; Psalms 14:1-3; 51:5; Romans 5:12-19)

#### **VII Salvation by Grace through Faith**

We believe that sinners are saved by grace through faith alone and that not of themselves, it is the gift of God, not of works. We further believe that every saved person is “justified from all things from which he could not be justified by the Law of Moses.”

(Acts 13:39; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1; 3:25-26; Titus 2:11-14)

#### **VIII The Atonement of the Blood of Christ**

We believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin, and made a curse for us, dying in our place, a Sacrifice acceptable to God and effectual for every sinner who receives Him.

(Leviticus 17:11; Galatians 3:13; Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7; John 1:12; I Peter 1:18-19; 2:24; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:6-9)

#### **IX Regeneration by the Holy Spirit**

We believe that, owing to the universal depravity and death in sin, no one can see or enter the kingdom of God unless born of the Spirit whereby he becomes a new creation, sealed unto the day of Redemption.

(John 3:5-8; James 1:18; Galatians 6:15; I Peter 1:23; Ephesians 1:13; I John 5:1; Titus 3:5)

### **X The Believer's Eternal Salvation**

We believe in the eternal salvation of all who are actually born again by the Spirit of God through faith in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, and that it is the privilege of all such to be assured of their present salvation and eternal life.

(John 5:24; Hebrews 10:24; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:28-39; I John 5:11-13; Philippians 1:6)

### **XI Sanctification**

We believe that all the members of the body of Christ are "sanctified ones" (saints), are perfected as to their standing forever by the one offering of the blood of Christ, and are one with Christ in sanctification. As to their state, they may be sanctified by the Word, by the blood of Christ, and by the in-working presence and power of the Holy Spirit which should issue in behavior indicating the fruit of the Spirit.

(Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 5:25-27; John 17:17-19; I John 1:7-9; Romans 15:16; Jude 1; I Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 4:22-24; Hebrews 2:11; 10:10; 13:12)

### **XII The Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

We believe that when the Holy Spirit came upon the whole company of believers on the Day of Pentecost as promised by Christ, they were collectively baptized into one body, which was the birth of the Church, the Body of Christ. Since that time this baptism occurs individually at the moment of salvation, at which time the believer is also indwelt by the Spirit. We believe that the New Testament distinguishes between being indwelt by the Spirit, which is true of all believers, and being filled with the Spirit, which is the believer's privilege and duty, producing power in Christian witness. There is one baptism with the Spirit, and it is into the Body of Christ, but there are many fillings.

(John 14:15-18; I Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:9; Matthew 3:11; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4; 4:8-31; Ephesians 1:13-14)

### **XIII The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church to glorify Christ in the building of His body. We believe that God, the Holy Spirit, is sovereign in the bestowing of His gifts for the perfecting of the saints for the work of their ministry, and that it is not God's will that any one gift should be given to all believers, although all believers have at least one gift. We believe that whenever spiritual gifts are exercised, they should always be within the limits expressly given in the Scriptures (e.g. I Corinthians 14:23-40). We believe that in the early church speaking in tongues (a human language unknown to the speaker), and the working of miracles were sign gifts demonstrated primarily to authenticate God's revelation through the apostles and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We believe that today such signs are not necessary to give evidence of the baptism or of the filling of the Spirit, nor are they a mark of spiritual maturity. We believe that special divine revelation for authoritative Scripture ceased with the Apostolic Age.

(Acts 2:1-13; Hebrews 2:3-4; I Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 2:20; Romans 12:3-8; John 14:26; I Peter 4:7-11; Galatians 1:8-9; Ephesians 4:11-13; Revelation 22:18-29; II Corinthians 12:12)

#### **XIV The Unity of the True Church in the mystical Body of Christ**

We believe that the Church is composed of all who are united by the Holy Spirit to the risen and ascended Son of God, and that “by the same Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles”, thus being members one of another and knit together in love.

(Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:3-10; I Corinthians 12:12-27; Colossians 2:19)

#### **XV The Pre-Millennial Coming of Our Lord**

We believe that this present age will end with the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, first to receive His Church unto Himself, and then to establish the throne of David upon the earth and to reign in righteousness over it for a thousand years.

(II Samuel 7:16; John 14:1-3; Psalms 72:7-8; Acts 1:10-11; Titus 2:13; Isaiah 9:6-7; Hebrews 9:28; Micah 5:2; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 1:32-33)

#### **XVI The Resurrection of the Body**

We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures, in bodily form, and thus became the first-fruits of them that sleep; that upon His return He will raise out from among the dead those that have died in Christ, this being the first resurrection; and that, after the thousand years, He will raise them that have died in unbelief from their graves to receive their sentence.

(Psalms 90:3-4; John 5:28,29; Isaiah 26:19; I Corinthians 15; Daniel 12:2; Romans 1:4; 8:23; Revelation 20:5-6)

#### **XVII The Eternal Blessedness of the Saved, and the Eternal Punishment of the Lost**

We believe that the attitude either of reconciliation or enmity toward God is fixed eternally at death, and that the saints of all the ages will be forever with the Lord and will become joint heirs with Him as their Redeemer in His inheritance. We further believe that there is an appointed day for the judgment of the wicked when they will be cast into the Lake of Fire, there to remain forever and ever, in varying degrees of torment according to their works.

(I Thessalonians 4:17; II Peter 2:9; Romans 8:17; Daniel 12:3; 7:22-27; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8; 22:11)

#### **XVIII The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning and the great deceiver of all nations; that he will be overcome by the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Seed of the woman, and cast into the Bottomless Pit for a thousand years, and finally committed to the Lake of Fire with all his angels to be tormented forever and ever.

(II Corinthians 11:13-15; Job 1:6-12; Genesis 3:15; John 8:44; Ephesians 6:12-16; Revelation 20:1-3,7-10)

#### **XIX Divine Healing of the Body**

We believe that divine healing of the body is not in the Atonement in the sense that salvation and forgiveness of sins are in the Atonement. The suffering and death of Christ according to the New Testament was substitutionary, penal and vicarious. It is nowhere taught in Scripture that Christ died for the effects of sin but for sin, and sickness is directly or indirectly the effect of sin.

(Romans 4:25; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24; 3:18)

## **XX Baptism**

We believe that the New Testament clearly prescribes baptism for believing disciples as a symbol and proclamation of the believer's death to sin and resurrection to new of life. Further we believe and practice immersion as the mode of baptism prescribed by the New Testament in accordance with its word meanings, examples, and symbolism. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38; 8:12 Romans 6:3)

## **XXI The Lord's Supper**

We believe that our Lord and Savior clearly prescribed for His believing disciples the solemn rite of the Lord's Supper as a memorial of the Lord's death to be kept by His disciples until He comes again, according to His promise and the Father's revealed plan.

(I Corinthians 11:23-27; Luke 22:19-20)

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **Membership**

#### **Section 1**

The Membership Committee shall consist of two appointed Board members, a Women's Committee member with one (or two) other members of the congregation.

#### **Section 2**

Persons desiring to unite with this congregation upon profession of faith shall be examined by the Membership Committee as to their Christian experience and the basis of their salvation, answering such questions as:

- a. Do you believe the Bible to be the Word of God and therein is set forth the way of salvation?
- b. Have you realized in yourself that unless redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ you are eternally lost?
- c. Have you experienced the forgiveness of your sins made possible by the death of Jesus Christ upon the Cross as your Substitute?
- d. Do you now yield yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ?

*Likewise those with letters of recommendation from other Churches shall present them in person to the Committee. Applicants eighteen years of age or over whose examination is satisfactory will be recommended to the Congregation for membership; and when approved by the Congregation will be received into fellowship at such time as may be determined by the Membership Committee.*

It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to advise the Church Clerk of all additions to and deletions from the church roll.

#### **Section 3**

Names of those persons recommended by the Committee for acceptance shall be announced at a Sunday morning worship service one (or two) weeks prior to the service in which they will be publicly received into membership. If no objection has been lodged with the Pastor(s) and the recommendation of the membership Committee is approved

by the Congregation then assembled, the reception of such new members may then be proceeded with.

#### **Section 4**

All objections shall be referred to the Membership Committee who shall deal with the same.

#### **Section 5**

New uniting members will be asked to publicly declare their agreement to:

- a. the Articles of Faith and Doctrine of Peoples Church
- b. faithful involvement and investment in the church's life and ministry
- c. joyful submission to the leadership and direction of this local church

#### **Section 6**

##### ***Covenant of Membership***

At the reception of new members, they shall be required, along with all members present, openly to enter into the following Covenant:

*We confess Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior in the presence of all. We give ourselves wholeheartedly to His service and take His Word as the guide for our life. Having been united by saving faith to Him, we now, as a church of Christ, unite with one another in this Covenant.*

*We will maintain regular private prayer and the reading of God's Word, earnestly seeking the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

*We, who are the heads of families, will maintain Christian standards and devotions in our homes, and will endeavor to lead our children, or others committed to our charge, to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and growth in the Christian life.*

*We will regularly attend the public worship of God on the Lord's Day, as far as Providence permits, and any other meetings for worship that the church may schedule, and we will observe together the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.*

*We will walk together in brotherly love and seek to be a practical help and encouragement to one another. We will not bring to the church a complaint against any member for personal offence until we have taken the first two steps pointed out by Christ.\* In this way we will endeavor to settle all private offences without making the matter a public issue.*

*We will financially support a faithful Christian ministry among us, as the Lord prospers us. We will seek also to send the Good News to the whole world. As we are given opportunity, we will seek, by personal example and spoken word, to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.*

*We will endeavor to live authentic Christian lives in true godliness, abstaining from anything that is unworthy of Christ and His gospel. As believer's baptism signifies death to sin and resurrection to holiness, so we will seek to walk in newness of life for God's glory.*

*\* (Matthew 18: 15-17)*

#### **Section 7**

The discipline of the Congregation shall be exercised by the Board. Any member in error either in doctrine or practice (lifestyle) shall be liable for dismissal from membership by the recommendation of the Elders. Dismissal shall require a two-thirds vote of the Board.

**Section 8**

The name of any member who shall be absent from the services of the congregation for a period of three months without giving a satisfactory reason for such absence, may be removed from the roll of membership. Members leaving the community for a time, desiring their membership retained, should keep the Membership Committee informed of their whereabouts.

**ARTICLE 5*****Government*****Section 1**

The government of this church is vested in its membership executed through the Board.

**Section 2**

The Board shall be the executive of the Congregation in its dealing with persons and organizations.

**Section 3**

The Board shall have the supervision over the business transactions and general work of the church.

**Section 4**

The Board shall have a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Clerk and Treasurer. The Board shall hold in trust the title of all property belonging to the church.

**Section 5**

The Board shall have authority to appoint individuals or committees for the transaction of its business.

**Section 6**

The Board shall have authority to call congregational meetings for the purpose of recommending such actions as call for a vote of the church members and for the purpose of receiving advice or instruction from the church members.

**Section 7**

The Board shall act as arbitrator to settle any unresolved grievance which may arise between those associated with the church, including pastors, members or organizations.

**Section 8**

The Board shall perform such other duties as may be defined by this Constitution and shall at all times be subject to the majority vote of the church members.

**Section 9**

All church offices vacated by virtue of expired terms of service shall be filled by election at the Annual Meeting. Vacancies created by resignation or other means (e.g.,

disciplinary action or death of a member) may be filled by election at any regular congregational business meeting or a special meeting of the congregation called for that purpose. Those being considered for church office shall be nominated in the following manner:

- a. A Nominating Committee shall be elected and/or appointed by the Board not less than two months before the Annual Meeting. It shall consist of four members and the Pastor(s), and serve on an annual basis, convening, as needed, to fill open positions.
- b. A list of nominations made by this committee shall be posted in three conspicuous places in the church for at least ten days prior to the Annual Meeting, or any Congregational Meeting at which open positions are to be filled.
- c. After the list is posted, further nominations may be made in writing, each such nomination being signed by three members in good standing and left with the Clerk not later than seven days prior to the meeting at which elections will take place, and if such persons so nominated are found to be eligible, their names shall be added by the Nominating Committee to the names already posted.
- d. When a vote is necessary, it shall be taken by ballot.
- e. A majority vote shall be required for election to office.
- f. Only members of the church in good standing are entitled to vote.

### **Section 10**

The Directors of the Sunday Children's and Adults' ministries (e.g. Sunday School, Junior Church, Adult Bible Fellowship) shall be elected annually by the church membership at the regular Business Meeting held in the month of May / June, or at any other time of the year should such need arise. At least two months in advance the Nominating Committee shall prayerfully review the needs of each and consider the availability of members who demonstrate the spiritual and administrative aptitudes required to fill the positions. The final nominees shall be presented to the membership for its vote.

### **Section 11**

All recognized organizations and ministries of the church are accountable to the Board. The recognized leader of each group shall be a member of the church in good standing. Where funds are collected into an account, the treasurer of each group is accountable to the Chairman of Finance, and shall annually present a financial statement to the Finance Committee.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### ***Board of Deacons***

#### **Section 1**

There shall be elected at least seven, and not more than twelve Deacons, who with the Pastor(s) shall constitute the Board of the Church. The Board at their first business meeting after appointment shall elect from their own member, a chairman, vice-chairman, clerk and treasurer. The term of office for a deacon shall be three years. Appointments shall be staggered so that one-third of their number shall be elected each

year. In the event that a Deacon is unable to complete his tenure of office, a replacement to complete the unexpired term of office may be elected at the next (or any) congregational business meeting in accordance with Article 5, Section 9 of this Constitution.

## **Section 2**

A present member of the Board of Deacons, or one who has served in the past may be recommended for the office of Elder by the Senior Pastor in consultation with the Pastoral staff. Such a person will then be nominated by the Board and then approved by the general membership at the next Business Meeting of the Church.

Elders shall have been Deacons in good standing for at least one (1) year and have displayed the spiritual and leadership quantities as defined in 1 Tim. 3:1-8 and cited from Titus 1:6-9 (NIV):

“An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless-not overbearing, not quick tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”

They must also be in complete agreement with the Articles of Faith and Doctrine of the Associated Gospel Churches.

The Committee of Elders shall assist in shepherding the congregation with pastoral care and concern; in discerning the spiritual state of the body as a whole; in guarding against doctrinal error; and in dealing with issues of conduct, discipline and spiritual concern or any matter they deem necessary for the ministry of the church. In absence of a Pastor the Elders will continue to exercise this care and shepherding of the congregation.

There shall be a minimum of two Elders. The term of office shall be for three (3) years. The Committee of Elders shall also meet at least three (3) times a year.

## **Section 3**

Any Pastor’s or officer’s service may be terminated for cause, at any time, by a two-thirds vote of the church members present after a fair and impartial hearing conducted under the supervision of the Board at a meeting called in accordance with Article 5, Section 6 or Article 8, Section 5

## **Section 4**

A Pastor(s) may be called by a two-thirds vote of the church members present at a constitutionally called meeting, after recommendation by the Board, and also appropriate approval by the Associated Gospel Churches of Canada. Pastors shall give a minimum of 30 days notice in writing to the Board before termination of their service. Likewise, the church, through its Board, shall give pastors a minimum of 30 days notice before terminating their service.

## **Section 5**

There shall be elected a Women's Committee of at least seven and not more than twelve members who shall at their first meeting after appointment, elect from their number, a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and any other officers or committees deemed necessary to perform the duties assigned to it.

The term of office for a member of the Women's Committee shall be for three years. Appointments shall be staggered so that one-third of their member shall be elected each year. In the event that a member is unable to complete her tenure of office, a replacement to complete the unexpired term of office may be elected at the next (or any) congregational business meeting in accordance with Article 5, Section 9 of this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### ***Duties of Pastor(s) and Officers***

#### **Section 1**

The Senior Pastor shall have general oversight of the spiritual life and regular services of the church, shall be ex-officio member of all Board and committee meetings connected with the church unless otherwise directed by this Constitution or order by the vote of the church and shall conscientiously perform such duties as may be arranged between the Board and himself. If at any time his personal belief, lifestyle, preaching or teaching is not in full accord with the doctrinal standard and statement of this church, his service as pastor shall be terminated.

#### **Section 2**

Any other Pastor(s) or employee of this church shall perform such duties as may be outlined in their job description. If at any time his personal belief, lifestyle, preaching or teaching is not in full accord with the doctrinal standard and statement of this church, his services shall be terminated.

#### **Section 3**

The Clerk shall be responsible for the keeping of records of all business meetings of the church and Board, and any other meetings designated by the church members or Board, and shall submit these records for approval of the church members or the Board upon request of either body. He shall have custody of the church seal, shall keep a complete membership role, shall carry on and maintain a complete record of all correspondence and such other records as may pertain to his office. He shall also have in custody any other papers, records, or other documents as directed by the church members or Board, and as required by the laws of the Province of Quebec.

#### **Section 4**

The Treasurer or his Board approved designee shall be the custodian of all funds and shall be responsible for the banking of such funds promptly to the account of the church in a bank designated by the Board. He shall pay all accounts regularly authorized. He shall keep on file vouchers for all payments made. Checks must be signed by two Board approved signing officers.

There shall be kept under his direction a record showing all cash received and disbursed and this account shall be balanced at the close of each month. There shall also be prepared in approved form under his direction each month a financial statement

showing the true status of the various funds to be presented to the Board. He shall also have prepared in approved form under his direction a financial statement showing the status of all funds for the fiscal year of the church for presentation at the Annual Meeting. His books shall any time be available to the Board and must be submitted to audit annually or as directed by the Board.

### **Section 5**

The Treasurer or his Board approved designee shall have supervision of the church's official charitable donation receipts, and the records thereof, and the filing of all documents as required by Quebec and Canadian laws and regulations governing charitable organizations, and the maintaining of the church's status as a charity organization.

### **Section 6**

In the event that an officer is unable to perform his duties or there is a vacancy in any office, the duties must be taken care of by any person authorized by the Board.

### **Section 7**

The members of the Women's Committee shall, under the direction of the Board, assist in the care of the congregation, visiting of the sick, ministering to the needy, preparing of the elements for the Lord's Supper, assisting of candidates at baptismal services, and in preparing for social functions of the church. They shall have representation on all standing committees. The Women's Committee shall hold at least four formal meetings a year, and any other meetings as needed at the call of the chair.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### ***Meetings***

#### **Section 1**

The fiscal year of this church shall end on the last day of December. The Annual meeting shall be held within sixty days thereafter, the date to be determined by the Board and announced to the congregation at two regular Sunday services preceding the said meeting.

#### **Section 2**

At the Annual Meeting the minutes of the preceding Annual Meeting and the report of the Church Clerk shall be read, and the church's yearly financial report given. Also such other business as may be necessary shall be transacted.

#### **Section 3**

Business meetings of the church shall be called by the Board so that the congregation and members can be informed of the progress of the church and of any spiritual or temporal problems with which it is confronted. These meetings shall be announced in the same manner as laid forth for special business meetings in Section 4 of this Article. These meetings shall be held in the months of May or June and October or November. The agenda for the business meetings shall be posted at least two Sundays before the business meeting.

**Section 4**

Special business meetings of the congregation may be called by the Pastor(s) or by the official Board and shall be duly constituted, provided notice of the meeting has been announced, and business to be dealt with has been posted on each of the two Sundays preceding. Only those items given in the notice shall be considered at the Special Business Meeting.

**Section 5**

The Board shall call a special meeting upon the written request of ten percent of the members, said meeting and its purpose to be announced as provided in Section 4 of this Article, and convened within three weeks after filing request with the Board.

**Section 6**

Any meeting to be held to deal with acquiring or disposal of immovable property shall be held according to the laws of the Province of Quebec.

**Section 7**

The Board shall meet at least 10 times per year or at the call of the Chairman or any three members of the Board. Half of the members shall be a quorum. It shall be the practice of the Board to seek to reach a unanimous decision on all questions. "When questions (motions) arise, each member shall have equal rights in debate. The rights of majority and minority must be observed. When more than half of the members support a motion the remainder must abide by the decision."

**Section 8**

In the conduct of business meetings, any parliamentary questions not covered by this Constitution shall be decided by Roberts Rules of Order.

**ARTICLE 9*****Amendments*****Section 1**

This Constitution may be amended or added to by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at any regular or special meeting providing the proposed amendment or amendments have been posted or circulated to the membership in printed form on the two Sundays preceding said meeting.

**Section 2**

An official copy of this Constitution shall be held by the Church Clerk and affixed to the Church Minute Book. On the adoption and approval of any amendments or new articles it shall be the duty of the Clerk to attach or insert a record of such changes in this official copy.

***End***