

**Groby  
United  
Reformed  
Church**

Introducing  
membership in the local church

When a person puts their personal faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour they automatically become members of the world-wide Church.

In addition to this Christians in a particular area may choose to make a local covenant (agreement) with each other to worship together, to help each other grow in faith and to demonstrate the kingdom of Jesus to which they belong. In so doing they are committed to each other and to inviting others to share in the life of that kingdom.

### This is membership of the local church.

This leaflet is designed to help you to think about what it means to be a member of Groby United Reformed Church and to decide whether this is God's will and purpose for you.

Please read it. The Minister or an Elder will then talk with you about membership (possibly in company with others who are considering church membership) and you will have every chance to ask your questions and review your ideas and expectations.

Only at the end of this process will you be asked whether you believe it is the will and purpose of God that you become a member of this local body of Christian people.

## Questions to Consider

Therefore do you now feel you can make these promises and commitments and do you want to become a member of Groby URC?

Please now consider all you have read and have been told and talk over the possibility of membership with us.

What does it mean to you that God is your Father?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is your Saviour?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is your Lord?

What does it mean to you that the Spirit is your guide?

What do you think are the expectation of a church member in terms of private worship?

What do you think are the expectation of a church member in terms of public worship?

**Within the URC a local covenant is made between individual Christians and those already members of the local church in a communion service in the following words.....**

Do you confess your faith in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, taking the Father to be your Father, the Son to be your saviour and Lord, the Spirit to be your helper and guide?

Do you promise, in dependence on God's grace, to be faithful in private and public worship, to live in the fellowship of the Church and to share in its work, and to give and serve, as God enables you, for the advancement of the kingdom throughout the world?

Do you promise by the same grace, to follow Christ and to seek to do and to bear his will all the days of your life.

And do you trust in his mercy alone to bring you into the fullness of the life of the world to come.

**Commitments you are asked to make....**

What I confess:

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What I promise:

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I promise by *God's grace*, to follow Christ and to seek to do and to bear His will all the days of my life.

I put my trust in His mercy alone to bring me into the fullness of the life of the world to come.

What do you think is expected of a church member in terms of living in the fellowship of the local church?

What do you think is expected of a church member in terms of sharing in the work of the local church?

What do you think is the purpose of the church in the world - and what are the implications for the church member?

## Questions you might like to ask?

Do I have to attend church meetings?

Do I have to join a home group?

What financial commitment am I expected to make - am I expected to tithe?

What do I do if I feel God is calling me to be involved in a specific area of church life?

What do I do if I feel I can't cope with the work I am doing within the fellowship?

What do I do if I experience difficulties with a member or non-member in the fellowship?

Should I tell someone when I or members of my family become ill or experience other difficulties? If so, who?

Other questions.....