

# Plant Membership



We welcome anyone to our meetings no matter what you believe or how firmly you believe it. However, like most churches, we have a membership system.

This is a simple, convenient way for Christians who come to The Plant to express our unity in Jesus Christ. This unity is expressed in four areas: **Commitment**; **Accountability**; **Service**; and **Support**. The expectations of and benefits to Plant Members are outlined below:

## Commitment

### *Expectations*

- To attend one main meeting on a frequent and regular basis
- To make every effort to get to know, and to foster a genuine, loving concern for others at The Plant, particularly those who go to the same main meeting

### *Benefits*

- Other Plant Members have made a commitment to you too

## Accountability

### *Expectations*

- To understand, believe and sign up to the IFES Doctrinal Basis\* (If a Plant Member should cease to believe this statement, or act unrepentantly in a way contrary to it, The Plant's leadership may revoke membership)
- To submit to The Plant's leadership under Christ
- To help other Plant members to keep growing as Christians, including gently rebuking them in love if appropriate

### *Benefits*

- Some major decisions may be put to the Plant Membership
- Eligibility to be a member of the Planning Group (which, amongst other things, has a role to play in the appointment of The Plant's leaders)
- Fellow members are looking out to help you to keep following Jesus

---

\* From time to time we provide a course working through the Bible's teachings as summarised in the IFES statement. Alternatively, we should also be able to make provision for you to go through the doctrinal basis in a one-to-one or small group if the course was not running and you wanted to go through it before joining as a member.

## **Service**

### *Expectations*

- To attend Plant meetings with a view to serving others
- Where possible, to take an active part in The Plant's practical running (e.g. logistics, catering, PA)
- Where appropriate, to be prepared to use gifts of word ministry at The Plant (e.g. leading discussions, Bible study, up-front Bible teaching)

### *Benefits*

- Opportunities to use gifts and be trained in them, particularly word ministry gifts

## **Support**

### *Expectations*

- To pray regularly for the members of The Plant, its leaders and its work
- To consider, seriously and prayerfully, giving financially to The Plant on a regular basis, however small an amount (The Plant depends on its members' financial support)

### *Benefits*

- We will email regular prayer information to you
- Access to talks, study materials and various other services on The Plant's website: [www.theplant.net](http://www.theplant.net)
- A [firstname.surname@theplant.net](mailto:firstname.surname@theplant.net) forwarding email address (which helps us keep in touch with each other)

## **How to become a Plant Member**

If you have been coming along to The Plant and intend to make it your church, we would be delighted if you would like to sign up as a Plant Member. Please complete the following form and then speak to one of the ministers who will go through it with you. Please be aware that if you are already involved with another church in the area, we may want to liaise with its leaders. This simple courtesy is to help us discern God's will together and avoid misunderstandings.

Also, unless requested otherwise, we will assume that Plant Members are happy to:

- 1) have their details (including photographs) held on a secure website
- 2) have photographs published on theplant.net website from which they can be recognised

# Plant Membership Form

**Section 1** [please complete on a hard copy and bring to membership interview]

Name: ..... Address: .....

Mobile: ..... .....

Phone: ..... .....

Email\* ..... .....

[\* Your current email address to which your @theplant.net address will forward] Postcode: .....

I am **NOT** happy for my contact details to be made available to other Plant Members:

The main Plant Meeting I will normally come to is... [please tick one box]

Sunday@10  Sunday@6  Monday@7

I would like to join a *Bible Reading Partnership* to read the Bible and pray in a small group:

To help discern how you can best serve at The Plant, please tick any of the boxes below that apply. You're not committing yourself to anything (and neither is The Plant!), and we'll provide training wherever necessary. Some jobs are only really applicable to certain meetings, but please do tick them anyway!

I can play a <b>musical</b> instrument and/or sing: <input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to do <b>street work</b> (e.g. questionnaires) <input type="checkbox"/>
	I'd like to do some <b>drama</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
I can <b>drive</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I have a car <input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to operate the <b>PA</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
	I'd like to have a go at <b>leading</b> a meeting <input type="checkbox"/>
I have a <b>dishwasher</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to have a go at giving a <b>talk</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
I have a <b>First Aid</b> qualification <input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to help with <b>Kids' Club</b> (during the Sunday morning meetings) <input type="checkbox"/>

What other gifts, skills, areas of interest or expertise do you have that might be helpful or relevant to The Plant (e.g. languages, artistic talents, technical skills, sports coaching qualifications etc.)?

.....

Have you recently been a regular attendee / member of another church in Manchester? If so, please give details:

.....

Is there anything you'd really like to see happening at The Plant that we don't already do?

.....

**Section 2** [please read carefully, but **do not complete** until membership interview]

All Plant Members are required to understand, believe and sign up to the following statement of Christian belief (the doctrinal basis of the *International Federation of Evangelical Students*):

*We rejoice in the central truths of Christianity as revealed in Scripture, including:*

- *The unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the Godhead.*
- *The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.*
- *The divine inspiration and entire trustworthiness of Holy Scripture, as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.*
- *The universal sinfulness and guilt of all men since the fall, rendering them subject to God's wrath and condemnation.*
- *Redemption from the guilt, penalty, dominion and pollution of sin, solely through the sacrificial death (as our representative and substitute) of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.*
- *The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and his ascension to the right hand of God the Father.*
- *The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration.*
- *The justification of the sinner by the grace of God through faith alone.*
- *The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.*
- *The one holy universal Church, which is the body of Christ and to which all true believers belong.*
- *The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Complete after membership interview**

I have read and understood this doctrinal basis, and declare that I believe it. I will seek to express my unity in Christ with others at The Plant through commitment, accountability, service and support.

Signed: ..... [Plant Member]

Date: .....

Witnessed and membership approved:

Signed:..... [on behalf of The Plant leadership]

Date: .....