diamond valley BAPTIST CHURCH

membership

Partnering in the work of Jesus together

WHY MEMBERSHIP?

Membership affirms our resolve to follow Jesus together in selfless love towards each other and to everyone Jesus calls us to

Our ministry leaders have been through the membership process, as has everyone who can vote when we cluster periodically to discern together issues related to our church family life and mission

WHO CAN BE A MEMBER?

Anyone who is 18 years or older and who has been an active participant in the church family for at least six months can apply for membership

There are three areas we consider when people step up to partner with us in this way:

Truths we all align with

(Faith Statement from DVBC Constitution)

Habits we all commit to

(Following Jesus in his way of living)

Boundaries we work within

(Code of Conduct)

WHAT IS THE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS?

Submit this completed application form to the church office. Then a pastor or council member will contact you for an interview, following which your application can be submitted for approval from the council

MISSION

Loving Jesus

Loving People

Loving Life

VISION

Committing everything to help younger generations live depending on the Holy Spirit and multiplying infections disciples of Jesus

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Information received on this form will be held in confidence by DVBC leadership and utilized solely for the management of our church membership register. Our privacy policy is available at your request.

First name | DOB

Last name | Phone

email

Home address

Suburb | Postcode

Briefly describe your understanding of what it means to be a Christian

How did you become a Christian?

What is your experience of baptism?

Please read our **Faith statement, Behavioural Commitment** and **Code of Conduct** attached to this form
For the following statements please tick the box to indicate your agreement

☐ The primary aim of my life is to love Jesus, love others and make more disciples

☐ I belong to the DVBC family and am committed to loving my brothers and sisters; giving my best to keep helping them to trust and follow Jesus in everything

☐ I am in full agreement and alignment with DVBC's faith statement, behavioural commitment and code of conduct

Signed | Date

Please complete and submit the **Persons of Concern** statement attached

DVBC FAITH STATEMENT

Truths we align with

(Faith affirmations from the DVBC Constitution)

1. The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

2. The existence of one God in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

3. The deity and incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity.

4. The fallen, sinful and lost estate of all people.

5. The salvation of men and women from the penal consequences and power of sin through the perfect obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ, His atoning death, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His unchanging priesthood.

6. The immediate work of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration of men and women, in their sanctification, and in their preservation to the heavenly Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. The necessity, in order to know salvation, of repentance towards God and of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

8. The resurrection of the dead, and the final judgment of all people by the Lord Jesus Christ.

9. The two ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which are of perpetual obligation: Baptism being the immersion of believers upon the profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and a symbol of the fellowship of the regenerate in His death, burial and resurrection; the Lord's Supper being a memorial, until He comes, of the sacrifice of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

DVBC BEHAVIOURAL COMMITMENT

Habits we all commit to

1. Spending regular time with God

2. Turning up consistently for the sake of others

3. Offering rapid inclusion for those entering our community

4. Celebrating and encouraging the gifts and contributions of others

5. Helping others without judgment

6. Forgiving those who we feel harmed by

7. Giving our best to help others follow Jesus

DVBC CODE OF CONDUCT (p1)

Boundaries we work within

Diamond Valley Baptist Church commits itself to a standard of responsible and ethical behaviour which is expected in our church and will bring honour and glory to God. Our code is underpinned by trust and a belief that everyone should be treated with respect and dignity. This Code of Conduct gives guidance about what practices (actions) are supported and what practices are NOT condoned.

The Code of Conduct applies to pastors, employees, ministry leaders (paid or unpaid) and other ministry volunteers. It is not exhaustive and does not foresee every set of circumstances that may arise across the variety of church events and activities.

This Code will help to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse and inappropriate behavior from adults/people in leadership. It will also help staff and volunteers understand and maintain the standard of behavior expected of them.

It will also work to reduce the possibility of allegations of abuse being made against leaders and people in authority and provide possible victims a pathway for voicing their concerns. Lastly, the Code will also work to reduce the possibility of allegations of abuse being made against DVBC.

I commit to:

- Treating others with respect, regardless of their age, race, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion, or position. If in a position of leadership, then teaching and exercising authority respectfully.
- Upholding confidentiality. This means not disclosing to anyone (including spouse) any confidential information without the consent of the person providing the information.
- In the case of child protection matters, I will disclose and discuss confidential information with the Safe Church Concerns Person, and in accordance with DVBC's reporting procedures.
- Being a team player. This means cooperating with other leaders, employees and/or volunteers (there may be areas that overlap).
- Using words that build up and are appropriate, not offensive, discriminatory, ridiculing nor embarrassing to others. This includes being mindful of my behaviour, actions and language and relationships with children and vulnerable adults.
- Respecting the boundaries of people over whom I may have a leadership or pastoral responsibility. This includes ensuring any contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults is appropriate and within the parameters of the program/event/ministry.
- Making alternative arrangements for pastoral ministry for any person with whom I develop an inappropriate romantic relationship.
- Being accountable to my leaders, watching out for each other, and protecting each other's integrity, e.g. never be alone with a child or vulnerable adult.

DVBC CODE OF CONDUCT (p2)

I commit to (continued)

- Acting in the best interests of those I serve. This includes ensuring programs are made accessible for people with a disability, and to make changes where needed to assist any specific needs that may arise.
- Reporting any concerns of child abuse in accordance with DVBC's reporting procedures
- Communicating with integrity, including accountable and wise use of electronic communication. This includes encouraging open communication between children, young people, parents, staff and volunteers, and allowing children and young people to participate in the decisions that affect them.
- Acknowledging when I am out of my depth and/or do not possess the required skills and/or professional credentials and then referring to those who do.
- Not taking property belonging to others, including intellectual property (copyright).
- Not knowingly make false, misleading, deceptive or defamatory statements.
- Not engaging in bullying, emotional abuse, harassment, physical abuse, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, sexual grooming or spiritual abuse of any person, including my own family.
- Being responsible in my use of legal addictive substances and activities (e.g. prescription drugs/alcohol/gambling)
- Not using any prohibited substance
- Acting with sexual purity. Sexuality is a gift from God. I will express my sexuality in healthy and God directed ways.
- Acting with financial integrity, including having accountable and transparent systems in place for financial matters.
- Not seeking personal advantage or financial gain from my position, other than in wages, recognised allowances and deductions. If in a voluntary position, this means accepting the role without any financial remuneration from DVBC.
- Disclosing to the church leadership if I am being or have been investigated for any criminal offences or have any knowledge of any criminal activity that would adversely impact on DVBC.
- Where grievances occur and a resolution is not forthcoming, that I will seek additional assistance. I will seek every effort to pursue reconciliation following biblical principles when conflict or division occurs. Issues pertaining to criminal actions, bullying or sexual misconduct will be handled in accordance with Baptist Union of Victoria policies, and I will report to the police as required by law.
- Promoting a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for children, young people, vulnerable adults, parents, staff and volunteers, where abuse, bullying or harassment of any nature is not tolerated.
- Upholding the DVBC vision of 'Loving God, Loving Others and Making Disciples', to the best of my ability.
- Attending and taking part in training provided by DVBC for my equipping.

☐ I have read this Code of Conduct and am aware that DVBC expects me to uphold, at all times, the standards of behavior described in it. I also understand that disciplinary measures will be taken if I am found to be in breach of this Code of Conduct.

Signed _____

Private and Confidential

Diamond Valley Baptist Church

Person of Concerns Statement

Prospective Members or Leaders

Our church welcomes everyone, and is committed to providing a safe place where everyone feels safe to participate, belong and contribute, particularly children and other vulnerable people.

Your answers to this brief questionnaire will assist the pastoral team at DVBC to determine the most appropriate way for you to participate in the life of our church. This may mean, if necessary, establishing a safety agreement which sets out the steps the church and a person of concern may put in place to enable that person to participate in, and share the ministry of DVBC.

We value you as a person. Your answers will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and protected by our privacy principles.

Thank you for helping to keep our church a safe place for everyone.

Please tick either "Yes" or "No" for each question. If the answer to any of the following questions is "Yes", a member of the pastoral team will follow up.

Name:	Signed:	Date:	Mobile:

Question	Yes	No
1. Have you ever pleaded guilty to, been convicted of, or admitted to a sexual criminal offence?		
2. Are you currently charged with a sexual offence?		
3. Have you ever been the subject of an allegation of a sexual offence/ misconduct?		

Please return in an envelope marked 'Private and Confidential' to:
The Pastor, Diamond Valley Baptist Church, 309 Diamond Creek Rd Plenty, 3090

Who are Persons of Concern?

A person of concern is someone for whom one or more of the following points apply:

1. has pleaded guilty to, been convicted of, or has admitted to a sexual criminal offence.
2. has been found to have sexually offended, arising through due diligence checks related to recruitment (screening).
3. is currently charged with a sexual offence.
4. has been the subject of an allegation of a sexual offence and this was not appropriately investigated.
5. has been found to have received an adverse risk assessment arising from sexual misconduct.
6. is deemed to be a risk to the safety of children and/or vulnerable adults because of an adverse risk assessment relating to sexual misconduct (including grooming).
7. exhibits constant wandering across other peoples' sexual boundaries.

What does an Individual Accountability & Safety Agreement Mean?

An individual safety agreement is an agreement between a person of concern, the local church and denomination, establishing the terms and conditions for the person of concern to participate in the life of the church. A Safety Agreement makes clear what steps the church and person of concern are taking to reduce real and potential risks associated with ministry to the person of concern.