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## Welcome to

### EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH

#### Our Vision

OPEN DOORS  
OPEN MINDS  
OPEN HEARTS

#### Our Mission

TO BUILD A GROWING COMMUNITY  
OF FAITH WITH OPEN DOORS, OPEN  
MINDS AND OPEN HEARTS.

### MEMBERSHIP AT EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S

We are pleased that you have joined us for worship  
and programming at Eglinton St. George's.

If you would like to consider joining us as a  
*New Member*,  
the following information might  
assist you in your decision:

#### Statement of Membership

At ESG, we have developed a *Statement of  
Membership*, that we believe expresses our hope for  
our life together as a faith community.

The New Creed of the United Church of Canada  
calls us "*to be the Church*"

- to celebrate God's presence
  - to live with respect in Creation
  - to love and serve others
  - to seek justice and resist evil
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- to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our  
judge and our hope

Implied within this statement, is a *relationship* that is  
shared. As such, it is fair and reasonable that we  
can expect the following of one another within the  
faith community of Eglinton St. George's United  
Church:

*What Eglinton St. George's United Church can expect of  
its members:*

TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, SEEK:

- to grow in my Christian faith and personal  
spiritual life through attendance at worship  
services and participation in learning  
opportunities
- to give financial support for the work and  
ministry of our church
- to serve in our Church and community, locally  
and globally

We affirm this with the understanding that we are  
indebted to those members who, although active in  
the past, are not able to be as actively involved.  
We seek their continued support through their  
interest in and prayers for the people and work of  
our congregation.

*What members can expect of Eglinton St. George's United  
Church, as a community of faith:*

TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY, PROVIDE:

- inspired and inspiring worship
  - informative, meaningful education and  
formative experiences
  - caring relationships with one another
  - relevant and authentic care of the wider  
community and world
  - an acknowledgement of individual talents and  
gifts, therefore fostering an expression of
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personal discipleship

- responsible stewardship of its resources

#### The Process of Joining Our Congregation

Within our tradition, we can join our congregation in  
three ways:

- 1) **By Transfer:** if you are already a member of  
another congregation, in good standing, we can  
request that your membership be transferred from  
there to here. We will prepare you for membership  
through a visit with a minister, a New Member  
Course, Orientation Session and Rehearsal.
- 2) **By Affirmation of Faith:** if you are new to  
church and haven't been baptized, we can  
provide preparation for adult baptism and you can  
be received as a new member through the  
Sacrament of Baptism. We will prepare you for  
membership through a visit with a minister, a New  
Member Course, Orientation Session and  
Rehearsal.
- 3) **By Re-affirmation of Faith:** if this is a return to  
church for you after a period of absence and you  
are baptized, we can receive you as a new member  
through a re-affirmation of faith. We will prepare  
you for membership through a visit with a  
minister, a New Member Course, Orientation  
Session and Rehearsal.

If you are unclear about which one applies to you,  
please contact one of the ministers for further  
information.

Once you decide that you would like to proceed with  
Membership in our congregation, please fill out the  
***Request for Membership Form*** and return it to the  
Church Office.

#### What's Next?

Once a *Request for Membership Form* is received, a  
*visit* will be arranged with one of the ministers.

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Prior to each New Member Sunday, there will be a *New Member Course* offered, which you will be expected to attend.

The Saturday before joining, there will be an *Orientation Session and Rehearsal* from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the South Studio. Please contact Connie, ahead of time, if child care is required.

#### What to Expect on a New Member's Sunday:

- please meet in the Hearth Room at 10:00 a.m. for:
  - ◆ final instructions
  - ◆ pictures
  - ◆ a flower
- during worship, you will be invited as a group to come forward and participate in the following (after the sermon)

#### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

#### PRESENTATION (by Representative of the Congregational Development Committee)

BY TRANSFER, BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

BY RE-AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** - All will say together The New Creed of the United Church

#### VOWS/PROMISES – A RE-AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

- *Addressing those joining – respond as a group:*

**Minister** – I ask you before God and this congregation, do you profess your faith in one God, Creator, Christ and Spirit?

**I DO.**

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**Minister** - In the presence of this community of faith, do you commit yourself to follow the way of Christ in your public and private life?

**I DO.**

**Minister** - Will you support the life and work of the church, with your gifts, with your questions and with your prayers, as you are able?

**I WILL.**

#### Minister - To the Congregation:

As God has called and received you, are you willing to offer your friendship, support and prayers to these new members of Eglinton St. George's United Church? If so please respond:

**WE ARE WILLING, GOD  
BEING OUR HELPER.**

*(congregation may be seated)*

**WELCOME:** In the name of God, we welcome you to the worship and work of this congregation. We give thanks to God for your witness among us. *(ministers and Representative from Church Growth committee will greet new members)*

**BLESSING:** May God, Creator, Christ and Spirit, bless all who have been received this day as new members. Amen.

New Members return to seats.

**A WELCOME LUNCH FOR NEW MEMBERS** will be held following worship – please plan to stay and meet others from the congregation.

Revised November 2008

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EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S  
UNITED CHURCH

## New Member Information

**Connie Capes-Leslie**  
Minister of Education &  
Congregational Development  
Acting Team Leader  
connie@esgunited.org ext. 310

**Deborah Hart**  
Minister of Pastoral Care and Outreach  
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**Don Parsonst**  
Minister of Worship (Part-time)  
robert@esgunited.org ext. 330

**Peter Merrick**  
Director of Music  
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**Debbie Bozzi**  
Director of Administration  
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**Katherine Hardie**  
Administrative Assistant  
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**Barbara Buchanan**  
Co-ordinator of Lay Ministries  
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