

New Hope Christian Church Woodlands

Being a Member of NHCCW

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Our Vision (Ephesians 3:17)

To know Jesus Christ and make him known.

“So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love...may know the love of Christ.”

(Ephesians 3:17-19)

Our Mission (John 15:1-11)

1. **ROOTED IN THE WORD**, we want to bear the fruit of the Spirit in worship.
2. **FAITHFUL IN LOVE**, we want to raise up a new generation of disciples.
3. **SHARING THE GOSPEL**, we want to minister to the world through evangelism and service.

NHCCW is an independent, non-denominational evangelical church with a vision to reach out to our community. We are affiliated with five other sister churches in Houston: West Houston Chinese Church, Houston Chinese Church, Fort Bend Community Church, Clear Lake Chinese Church, and Katy Christian Community Church.

Our Statement of Faith

1. There is one God, almighty in power, Creator of the universe, eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, 26–27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
2. Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, the Word incarnate, God and man in one person, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary. He was crucified and died on the cross, to atone for the sins of man. He was resurrected, ascended into Heaven, and is the mediator between God and man. (Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1–5; 14:10–30; Hebrews 4:14, 15; 1 Corinthians

15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9–11; 1 Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13)

3. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter to all believers. He brings them to repentance, indwells them forever, leads them into truth, and sanctifies them for glory. (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7–13; 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18)
4. The sixty-six books of the Bible is the written word of God. It is inspired, inerrant, authoritative and the sole standard for Christian doctrine and living. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160; 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)
5. Man is created in God's image. Man has fallen into depravity because of sin. Man must be born again by the Holy Spirit and believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3–6; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2)
6. Marriage is instituted by God from the creation of humanity as the life-long union of one man with one woman for the blessing of people and the glory of God. (Genesis 1:28; Matthew 19:3-9; Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 5:21-33)
7. The Church is the body of Christ and consists of all born-again Christians. Christ is the head of His Church, the family of God, which serves the purpose and mission given by God for His glory. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 14:6; 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1)
8. Jesus Christ will return to establish His eternal kingdom. All people will be raised and be judged, the believers to eternal life, the non-believers to eternal damnation. (John 3:16; John 14:1-3; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17–18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7–9)

A Word of Welcome from Our English/Youth Pastor



On behalf of the spiritual family of New Hope Christian Church, I want to thank you for your interest in our membership. We see membership as a covenant between a believer and God's local church. As you formalize your commitment to our church through membership, this local body of Christ also covenants with you to care for one another, build up one another, keep each other accountable, and together fulfill the Great Commission for the glory of God. Therefore, we see membership as a crucial step of one's commitment to discipleship in the local church. God is doing some remarkable things at NHCCW, and we are excited to see Him bringing people of all backgrounds to us to be a part of this transformational community. This handbook is intended to help you understand more about our church and membership commitment. May the Lord make NHCCW a blessing to you and make you a blessing to this local body.

For his glory,

Matt Connally
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405-331-0354

Our Staff

Pastor Matt Connally, a native Texan, is married to Melissa, an Oklahoma girl whom he met in Hong Kong when both of them were serving with Campus Crusade for Christ International. They have two boys, Matthew (at Baylor) and Jeremiah (at Magnolia High School). Matt graduated from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois with a Master of Divinity in 2000. He joined the NHCCW staff team as the English/youth pastor in January, 2017.



Minister Naaman Wei was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan, and became a Christian during his pursuit of a MBA degree at the University of Houston. After graduation, he worked in the Supply Chain field for international companies in China and US. He is married to Emily Lin and they have two children, Caroline and Nathan. He graduated from Logos Evangelical Seminary with a Master of Divinity in 2020. He enjoys hearty conversations and desires to apply Biblical principles to daily life.

Student Director Lie Sie Oei is a trained psychiatric nurse from England. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Curriculum and Instruction (Education), minoring in Middle School (4-8 grade) Mathematics. She has a Master's degree in Biblical Studies from Grace School of Theology. She joined as a staff of NHCC in 2015. She is married to Kean Seng, and has four children- Andrew, Sara, David and Joshua.





Church Administrator George Chan graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Master's Degree in Christian Studies in 2019 and has joined as a part-time staff of NHCC in 2017. He is married to Ginnie, and they have two daughters—Jasmine and Cyana.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the church is responsible for all the legal and secular affairs of the church. The Board of Directors is composed of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. They are subject to the approval and authority provided to them by the NHCCW Church Council.

Our Elders

- Qualification: According to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 for
- Responsibilities: Assist pastors in caring church members, and teaching and preaching the Word
- Term: Two 2-year terms followed by a sabbatical year before renomination
- Nomination Process:
 - nominated by elder nomination committee
 - approved by church council
 - confirmed by 2/3 majority vote of the general membership

Our Deacons

- Qualification: According to 1 Timothy 3:8-13
- Responsibilities: Various departmental operations of the church
- Term: Two 2-year terms followed by a sabbatical year before renomination
- Nomination Process:
 - nominated by deacon nomination committee
 - approved by church council
 - confirmed by 2/3 majority vote of the general membership

Our Story

In 2005 a new West Houston Chinese Church (WHCC) small group formed in The Woodlands, meeting at Tianjie Jack Lai's house. (Jack is currently the only elder of our church.) In 2006 three more groups were established. In 2008, the WHCC Executive Council put forth a plan for planting a church here. In 2009, the four small groups started gathering at Hopepoint Anglican Church. In 2010, two more small groups were established. In 2011, the six groups started meeting for worship at Faith Bible Church. In January 2012, WHCC ordained Pastor David Chu the pastor of the North District Church Plant.

NHCCW Facts & Figures

- Two worship services (Mandarin and English)
- Sunday School
- Children's Sunday School
- Small Groups (Chinese, English, and bilingual)
- Church wide prayer meetings once a month—English on the first Tuesdays and Chinese on the first Wednesdays.

Reasons for Membership

The difference between "attendees" and "members" can be summed up in one word: _____. At NHCCW, we recognize the need for church membership. We ask you to commit to membership for the following reasons:

BIBLICAL REASONS

1. We recognize that every Christian is a member of God's _____ church (Ephesians 1:22-23)
 - The church is not a building but a body of believers.
 - The universal church includes all believers—past, present and future (Heb 12:1).
 - The church is composed of people who are called out by God.

- All believers have automatic membership in God’s universal church.
- 2. Every Christian is also a member of God’s _____ church (Rom 16:5; 1 Cor.16:19; Col.4:15)
 - The local church is a physical church in a locality, such as NHCCW in Spring, Texas.
 - All believers should be actively involved in a local church for the purpose of worship, instruction, fellowship, and evangelism.
 - The local church is God’s intended spiritual home for Christians.

Christ is committed to His Church. Ephesians 5:25 tells us that “Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

CULTURAL REASON

Today we live in a consumer-oriented society. People show little commitment toward anything, including the church. This mentality has produced a generation of “church hoppers.” Membership is a decision to take stand to inform the world that serious follower of Christ will invest real _____ in a local church, and not follow the eclectic trend of our culture.

PRACTICAL REASON

Every team has a roster. Every school has an enrollment. Every army has an enlistment. Membership defines who can be _____ in our body. It says that you consider us your family. It says that you will take _____ in this family. You will make serving, praying, giving, a priority for this church. It says you care enough to get _____.

PERSONAL REASON

Membership enables personal _____. You cannot be held accountable nor build lasting _____ if you move from one church to another each week.

Member Responsibilities

1. You commit to protect the _____ of our church.

"...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3)

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Eph. 4:29)

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you." (Hebrews 13:17)

You can protect the unity of our church by _____ one another and being at _____ with one another. Beware of any gossip and refuse to be a part of it. Do not let people sow seeds of dissension in the body, as _____ in a church is an extremely serious sin in the eyes of God (1 Corinthians 3:17).

You also need to cooperate with the leadership of the church, working together to glorify God. This does not mean you cannot have a different opinion with church leadership. Unity is not uniformity. However, unity calls for compromises, learning how to agree to disagree, and mutual respect. Magnifying our differences divides the body of Christ.

2. You commit to maintain a godly _____ and to grow as a _____ of Jesus Christ.

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” (Phil 1:27)

Being a child of God and a member of His church, you represent Christ and His church. Your spiritual growth brings glory to God and grows the church. However, a sinful lifestyle and poor testimony not only dishonor God, they also damage the church. According to the Scriptures, (Mt 18:15-17, 1Cor 5:1- 5) the local church has the authority to discipline members for unrepentant sinful behavior and remove their membership if necessary. Discipleship is a serious commitment to spiritual growth and faithful testimony. Let us take full advantage of worship, Sunday school, small group and training opportunities to mature in our faith.

3. You commit to join the _____ life of NHCCW.

Attending Sunday worship is important, but it is not enough. We encourage each member to be a part of a small group in order to develop and nurture deeper relationships within the body of Christ. Sharing our lives, praying together and caring for one another are integral to a healthy Christian life.

4. You commit to serve in the _____ of NHCCW.

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 4:10-11)

As a member, you should care about the condition of your church. You should be concerned with the annual selection of our _____, members' meetings, and church ministries, because this is your spiritual family. We want every member to know his/her area of _____ and _____, in order to serve as the Spirit has intended. When all parts of the body are serving, the body grows. Remember to bring a FAT attitude to ministry: _____, _____, and _____, so that God can use you in any way He pleases. Please pray for the church regularly, using the prayer requests in the weekly bulletin. Invite your unchurched friends and families and take the initiative to make visitors feel at home.

5. You commit to _____ at NHCCW.

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."

(I Corinthians 16:2)

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (II Corinthians 9:7)

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD." (Leviticus 27:30)

Offering is a Christian's duty and _____. The New Testament teaches us that every Christian should give to God cheerfully and _____. The principle behind Christian giving is based on the Old Testament's teaching of tithing, which is the giving of 10% of one's income. The motivation behind our willingness to give should be gratitude for God's grace and generosity toward us. God rewards those who are faithful to Him.

NHCCW Membership

QUALIFICATIONS

- Born again Christians who were baptized at an evangelical protestant church.
- You're in full agreement with the NHCCW doctrinal statement.

TWO WAYS OF BECOMING NHCCW MEMBERS

- Through baptism at NHCCW
- Membership Transferal: If you possess membership from another evangelical protestant church and were a member in good standing, you may apply for membership through membership transferal. (We will grant dual membership only for people whose other membership is not in the city of Houston.) NHCCW generally accepts membership transferals only from other evangelical protestant churches who share our doctrinal beliefs. For this reason, we usually do not recognize baptism from non-protestant churches. We do not deny that there may be genuine Christians in these churches, but because of our doctrinal differences, a prospective member who was baptized at one of these churches is usually requested to enter into membership at NHCCW through the demonstration of a clear acceptance of our doctrinal beliefs, and through re-baptism at NHCCW. Membership transferal requirements in such situations will be evaluated on a case-by-case manner.

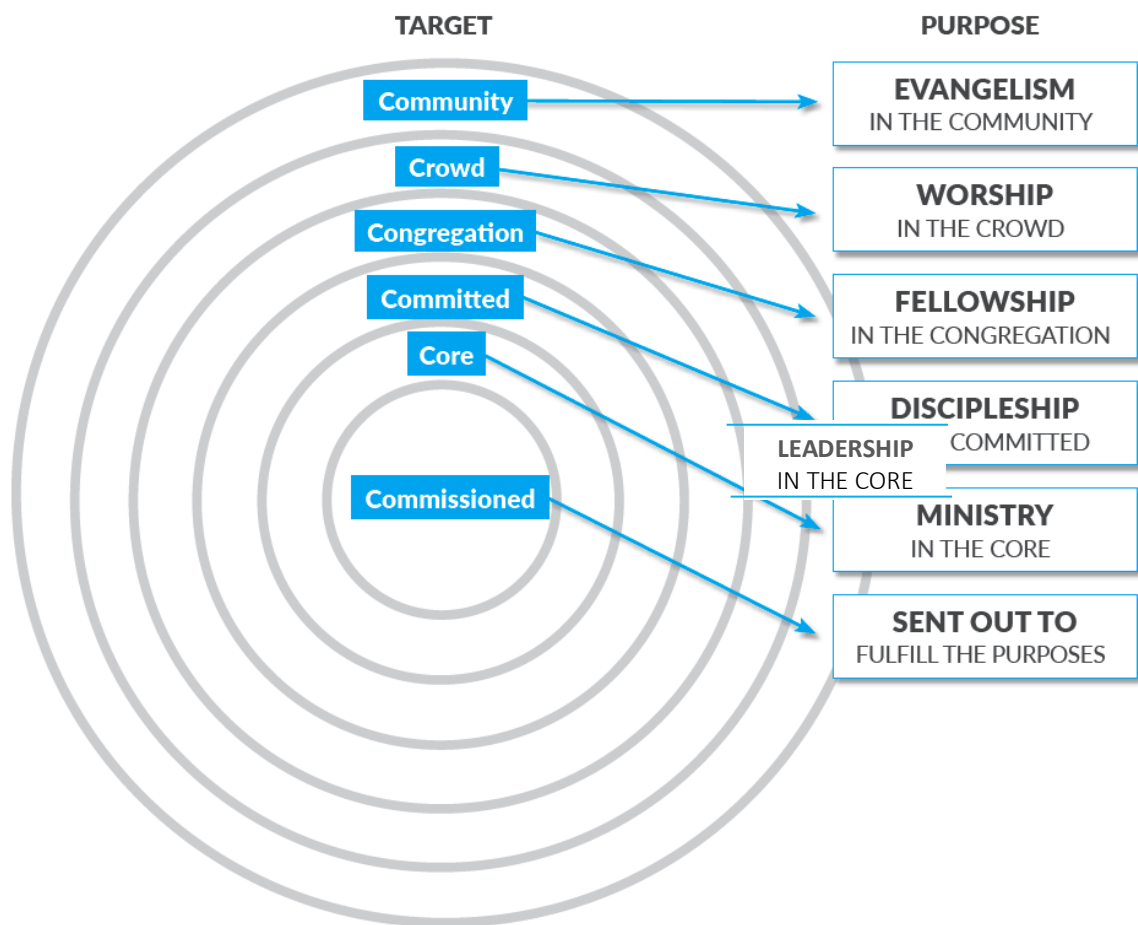
PROCESS

- Get a membership book and submit a membership application
- Attend a membership class
- Membership confirmation
- If you haven't been baptized, we'll baptize you
- Introduction to the Congregation during worship service

Membership Privileges

1. **Voting Right:** Members over the age of 18 have the right to vote in membership meetings.
2. **Leadership:** Only members may serve in church leadership as well as certain public ministry positions.
3. **Missions Support:** Members receive priority consideration for missions support.
4. **Facility Use:** Members receive preferred rates and priority in the leasing and use of church facilities for special functions.

6 Circles of Commitment



OUR Ministry Teams

To effectively carry out the ministry of the church, the church council is divided into ministry teams as follows:

- Pastoral/Elder Ministry
- General Affair Department
- Treasury Department
- Missions Ministry
- Membership Ministry
- Family Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- English Small Group Ministry
- English Worship Ministry
- Chinese Adult Education Ministry
- Chinese Evangelism Ministry Team
- Chinese Small Groups
- Chinese Worship Ministry

Each of these teams is composed of various related ministry departments, and is normally headed-up by deacons. The department chair could also be filled by elders or church members. A member of the Pastoral/elder ministry team is serving as the ministry team advisor.

NHCCW Annual Budget

- The deacon for each department proposes the departmental budget requirement to the Council.
- The Council combines each departmental budget, makes appropriate and necessary adjustments, and arrives at a composite budget.
- Recommendation to the General Membership Meeting by the Church Council.

- Approved by 2/3 majority vote of the General Membership Meeting.
- 2022 budget

General Fund	\$531,388.00
Gen. Missions Fund	\$21,100.00

NHCCW 2021-22 Council

Pastoral:	Matt Connally	English Pastor
	Naaman Wei	Chinese Minister
	Lie Sie Oei	Student Director
Administration:	George Chan	Church Administrator
Elder:	Tianjie Jack Lai	
Deacons:	CHAN Karen	Family Ministry
	DENG Furjen	Adult Education Ministry
	DUEITT Judy	Children’s Ministry
	HU Yuntao	General Affairs; Council Vice Chair
	LEE Kean Seng	Missions Ministry; Council Secretary
	LIU Louis	Worship Ministry; Membership
	OU Shangli	Youth Ministry; Council Chair
	QIAO Yu	Treasurer
	WANG Chao	Small Groups; Connections; IT