

The Eastgate Bible Church



Information Handbook

Includes the church's mission, ministries, statement of faith, FAQs and Constitution...

Introduction

G'day and welcome to Eastgate's Information Handbook. If you are reading this it may be because you are new to the church and want to dig a little deeper into the Eastgate identity or maybe just 'old' to the church and wanting to refresh yourself on what the church is all about.

If you are new – welcome! If you are just refreshing yourself, we pray that you will be reminded again of the graciousness of the Lord Jesus Christ to us as a church and of His vision for Eastgate. Either way, new or 'old', we pray that the handbook will be a blessing and serve as a ready reference for all things Eastgate (well, nearly all...).

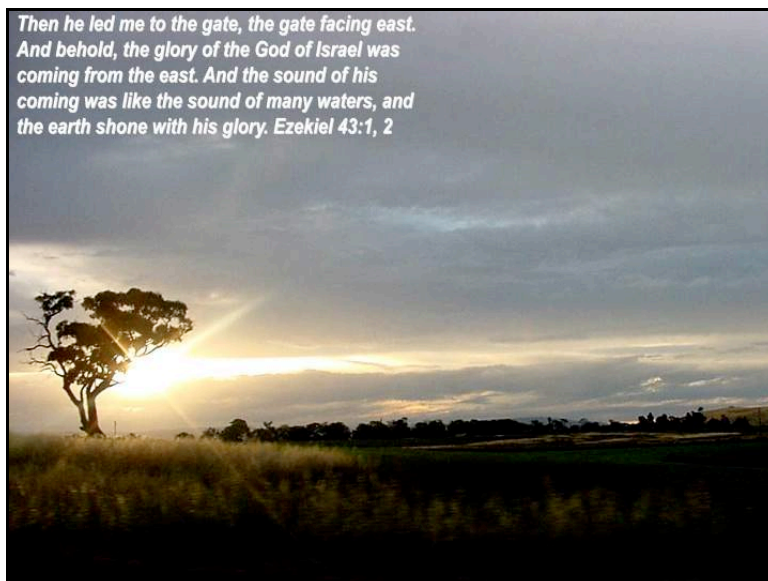
Inside you will find all the detail you need about the church's beliefs, mission and ministries, the foundations that support those ministries and all the 'legal stuff' such as the constitution, which you can use as a ready reference whenever the need arises.

If you have any comments or suggestions (or just notice some typos!) please let us know so that we can continue to 'grow' the document. Hard copies are available on request. There are a variety of other resources on our website including latest news, church planners, sermons, events, news and, as they say, a whole lot more so check that out as well if you get a chance (the website address is shown at the bottom of each page).

Sola Dei Gloria

The Eastgate Leadership Team

March 2011



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PRELIMINARIES: THE EASTGATE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

For those who desire to become members of Eastgate Bible Church we first of all invite you to read the handbook carefully. While we do not expect every person to fully accept each and every part of this document these are nonetheless the convictions of this local assembly and so we ask if you become a member you will not intentionally oppose these convictions. This is not to say we are closed to discussion regarding these matters. We would certainly welcome any gracious disagreement where such disagreement is biblically informed and delivered in a loving way – especially when it promotes the purity and the unity of the church and therefore the Glory of God (see frequently asked questions and ‘Christian Unity’ in this handbook).

We also acknowledge that the membership process may seem a little stern, and even daunting, but please rest assured that the conduct of the process is relaxed and informal. Our main aim is that you understand clearly what Eastgate is all about and that you understand what it means, from a biblical perspective, to be a member of a local congregation. If it makes it any easier we have all had to go through this process at one time or another!

Regardless of the formalities please know that it’s a special thing to formally commit to a local congregation and that we would be truly delighted if you decide to join us at Eastgate in this special way.

The membership process at Eastgate is as follows:

- Read and generally agree to the Handbook. This gives you a snapshot of the churches mission, vision and values as well as providing you with our doctrinal stance. You will also find that the values section, integrated as it is with our ministry areas, gives details of the various programs and ministries of the church. This section is updated every year with the faith goals of the relevant ministry (see the website for the latest edition). The handbook also contains the constitution. While it is good to have read this part of the handbook you don’t need to memorise it in any detail – its just there as a reference (don’t worry, no exam at the end!).
- From there we ask you to write out your own personal testimony (your ‘faith’ journey) detailing how you became a Christian and what this means to you. You can structure this in any way you like and length is also up to you. The main thing is that it conveys clearly how you came to trust in Jesus.
- After that, inform one of the church leaders you are interested in becoming a member and submit your faith journey to them (there are some framing questions below which you may or may not find helpful in putting together your faith journey).

- You will then be visited and interviewed by some of the church leaders (and their wives where appropriate). Here you will have an opportunity to ask any questions about Eastgate. This is also an opportunity for the church leadership to get to know you better and for you to elaborate on the written faith journey, as you feel led. During this time the commitment statement and membership certificate will be discussed with you. This certificate will then be presented at a public service (see below).
- The leadership team will then meet to pray and consider the application.
- You will then be publicly presented the Eastgate commitment statement and certificate and prayed for publicly by the church. You may or may not want to share briefly with the church about your hopes for Eastgate but there is no pressure to do this if you do not want to.

Faith Journey Questions

- *When did you first realise you needed the Lord Jesus and what did you do about it?*
- *What have been some of the struggles in your Christian walk?*
- *What have been some of the joys?*
- *What's your hope for Eastgate Bible Church?*
- *What's something as a Church we can pray for you about?*

That's it! You then join with us on the Eastgate journey. We pray that it will be a blessed, fulfilling and God-honouring journey for us all.