

Becoming A Member Of Westlake Nyon

1. Our History

Westlake Church started with a vision. Two former missionaries in India, Philippe and Wendi Berthoud, were the catalysts for the birth of Westlake. In 1987, as a result of their efforts, and collaboration between two existing English-language churches in the area, Westlake was born.

The church first met in the Salle Communale of Bogis-Bossey, then in 1990, moved to the newly built "La Fraternelle" in Nyon. 1990 was also the year the church appointed its first Pastor, Alan Wilson, who with his wife Pauline arrived from Northern Ireland. Alan and Pauline established Westlake on a firm foundation during their 17 year ministry here.

In December 2005 monthly services were begun in the Morges / Lausanne area. This fledgling work has now grown to the degree that in 2009 Westlake Lausanne was recognised as a fully autonomous church with its own Pastor.

David and Lyn McChesney arrived from New Zealand in the summer of 2008 to take up the Pastoral role and to lead the church into its next phase of ministry to English speakers "west of the lake".

2. Our Structure

Westlake Church is an independent Church. We are not a member of any particular denomination, although we have links of friendship and co-operation with a number of evangelical churches in the area. We are members of the Réseau Evangélique, the Association of Evangelical churches in Switzerland. We are also members of AICEME – the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East.

Westlake is a congregationally governed church, where the final authority for decision-making rests with those who have committed themselves as members of the church. Membership provides a platform for stability of government and organisation of the church. The members elect the Pastor, Elders and Executive Board as leaders of the church.

The Pastor And Elders

The Elders, along with the Pastor, have responsibility for the vision, spiritual direction, and health of the church.

The Executive Board

The EB is responsible to oversee legal, financial and administrative affairs of Westlake Church.

Ministry Leaders

Ministry leaders have responsibility for specific ministries of Westlake church. Several times a year they meet with the Elders for co-ordination, prayer and support.

Church Staff

Much of the work at Westlake Church is carried out by lay members. In addition to the volunteers, there is permanent paid staff: The Pastor, Youth Pastor, Children's Pastor and Office Administrator, the latter two being part time appointments.

Finances

Being an independent Church means that Westlake Church does not have access to the central funds of a denomination. The finance needed to run Westlake comes from the gifts and offerings of members and attendees of Westlake, with occasional gifts coming from people outside the church. Westlake's finances are carefully planned and monitored by a Treasurer and our books are audited each year. We encourage every member to commit to regular giving to the work of Westlake, preferably through direct transfer order from their bank account to the church bank account.

3. Our Mission

Our mission statement sums up what we are about as a church – ***“Helping People Become Lifelong Followers Of Jesus Christ”*** As an English speaking church, we see our particular commission from the Lord to reach out to English speaking people who are located “west of the lake” – from Geneva to Lausanne. Our goal is to share the love of God with them in ways that they will become lifelong followers of Jesus Christ. We believe this mission statement encompasses the two dimensions of the commission Jesus gave his followers in Matthew 28: 18 -20 – to make disciples and to teach them to obey everything he commanded us.

Beyond our local mission initiatives, Westlake has a ministry that stretches to the nations of the world, with involvement in countries in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe.

4. Understanding Membership

The activities of Westlake Church are open to anyone, and we encourage involvement even if people have not become members of the church. But we do require that decisions that are made at church meetings which influence the life of the church are made by church members. We also choose our leaders from among those who are members.

What do we ask of those who become members?

- A commitment to Christ and a willingness to follow Him.
- An affirmation of the mission and vision of the church and a commitment to praying for, and playing a part in seeing that mission fulfilled.
- Regular participation in corporate worship and if possible, a small group.
- Financial commitment to the work of the church and its mission. Westlake has a legal provision for an annual “cotisation” for each member to maintain our Swiss “Association” status.
- Involvement in serving in some form of ministry, according to their gifts and opportunities available.
- An endorsement of Westlake’s statement of faith (See below), its statutes and practices.

The Process Of Becoming A Member

If you have decided you want to commit yourself to membership of Westlake Church, Nyon, even if just for the period you are in Switzerland, please do the following;

1. Read the statement of faith below. Ask for copies of our statutes and our statement of faith and practice from the church office.
2. Fill in the accompanying sheet on the following page, sign it and return it to the church office.
3. If you would like the Pastor or one of the Elders to talk with you further about membership, please indicate that on the form.
4. The Elders will consider your request and arrange a time when we can formally welcome you as a member of Westlake at an upcoming church service.

Statement of Faith

As well as other biblical teaching, the church professes the following basic doctrines and principles:

- The divine inspiration and authority of the Holy Scriptures as originally given, and their supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- The unity of God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The creation of all things, both visible and invisible, by the Word of God; all creation being in, through and for Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God.
- The universal sinfulness and guilt of mankind since the Fall, rendering him subject to God's wrath and condemnation and necessitating the regeneration of his whole being.
- The believer's redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin solely through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, the only Representative and Substitute for mankind. This redemption is received through personal faith in Jesus Christ.
- The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- The second coming of Jesus Christ.
- The resurrection of mankind, and the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and the eternal punishment of the impenitent.
- The work of the Holy Spirit, convicting mankind of sin, bringing the sinner to repentance toward God and Faith in Jesus Christ.
- The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit, granting new life and power to the believer and granting gifts to the Church.
- The unity and common priesthood of all believers, who together form the one Universal Church, the body of which Christ is the head.
- The believers' common objective to live Christ-centred lives (Ephesians 4:1-3) under the Lord's authority and to make disciples of Jesus Christ according to His commandment (Matthew 28: 19- 20).