



## Helpful Information about being CONNECTED to our church family

The purpose of these 'CONNECTED' sessions is to explain what it means to become a member of the Muckamore Church family. There are two types of membership:

A '**Communicant Member**' is someone who has been welcomed into the family of faith by having a credible profession of faith. That is, we profess that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour for sin and our faith is built upon Him alone, and this faith is accompanied by a joyful obedience to Christ in every area of life. A communicant member is admitted to the Lord's Table by the Kirk Session and placed on the Communion Roll. Those who were Communicants in a previous congregation may usually transfer their membership by obtaining a certificate of membership from that congregation and passing it on to the Minister or Clerk of Session for the attention of Muckamore Kirk Session.

A '**Contributing Member**' is someone who is registered on the roll of the congregation as a contributor to the funds of the congregation either through the use of Collection Envelopes or by Standing Order as arranged with our Treasurer. Another way this can be described is a '*Community Member*,' as someone who is meaningfully connected to our church, not only through financial commitments, but also attends our worship gatherings and other church ministries/organisations.

The difference between these types of membership is that a Communicant Member is also described as a '*Full-Church Member*.' This means that someone has the privilege and responsibility of being able to vote in an election of Congregational Committee or Kirk Session; in the choice of a Minister; or in a Meeting of the Congregation for any other purpose. It may also place a Communicant Member in the position of being elected to the Congregational Committee or Kirk Session. People who are not Communicant Members of the Congregation or regular in attendance at Sunday worship will not normally be appointed as leaders in our organisations.

We encourage anyone to attend the 'CONNECTED' sessions so that you may find your place in our church family. At the end of the course you will have a few days to consider whether or not you wish to become a communicant member, and if you do, you will then be interviewed individually by the minister and one of the elders.

They will subsequently report back at a meeting of Kirk Session which you will also be invited to attend. At this meeting you will be given an opportunity to indicate your desire to become a Communicant Member of the church family. The Session will require a positive response to the following four questions in order to admit you into full membership:

1/ Do you believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

2/ Do you trust in Jesus Christ alone, as your Saviour from sin and as Lord of your life?

Depending on the grace of God:

3/ Do you promise to live as a follower of Jesus Christ, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit?

4/ Do you commit as a communicant member of this congregation, to worship, serve, give and participate fully in its life and witness?

You will then go into the Service, where you will be asked to make a public profession of your faith (answering these same questions) and be welcomed into the fellowship as Communicant Members. This involves an affirmation by the congregation to new communicant members, inviting you to join us as we worship, live for and serve the Lord together.

The Minister will then welcome you with a handshake and commit you to the Lord in prayer before we celebrate the Lord's Supper together as a fellowship.