
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Thanks for your interest in joining First Baptist Church!

We are grateful that you are prayerfully considering making First Baptist Church your church home. FBC represents a body of baptized believers who have joined together to worship, to receive instruction, correction, and encouragement, to enjoy fellowship, to grow in sanctification, to serve each other, and to evangelize the lost.

The pattern we find in the New Testament is that all who were saved would 1) publicly identify themselves with Christ by way of water baptism (lit. *immersion*) and 2) were added to a local church body as soon as possible (Mt 28:19-20; Acts 2:41, 47). We hold to that same pattern, in that order. We look for each Christian to have a clear and credible testimony of salvation, and then to have identified with Christ in believer's baptism (*immersion*)—or be willing to do so. At this point, the next priority is to become committed to a biblical, local assembly of believers. Becoming a member of FBC means you are following the same model, dedicating yourself to learning, growing, worshiping, and serving together with this local church family on a regular basis.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

1. Read our doctrinal statement at <https://fbcofholland.com/what-we-believe> and our Member's Covenant (2 are attached, one to stay with the packet and the back one for you to keep).
2. Fill out this packet. Tear off and keep the back copy of the Member's Covenant (two are provided). Then get the packet to the pastor or the church office.
3. We will contact you to set up a time for you to meet with the pastor for a brief interview and to answer any questions you may have.
4. You will then meet with the pastor and deacons for a follow-up interview and to go over any questions or concerns you or they may have.
5. If all is satisfactory, you will be presented to the congregation to give your testimony of faith in Christ; this is to be written down ahead of time, reviewed with the pastor, and either read or closely followed. Pastor will help you with this as part of step 3. At that time, the church family will be asked for a show of their support and blessing for your membership request.
6. Upon approval, you will be warmly welcomed into the fellowship as a member of the First Baptist Church.

I. GENERAL INFO

Name: _____ Email: _____

Home address: _____

Mailing address, if different: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Birth date _____ Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Remarried

If married, anniversary date: _____

Children names, ages, birthdays: _____

Please list the churches have you have been involved with in the last five years.

Most recent (name/location): _____

Time of involvement (approx.): _____ Were you a member? _____

Why did you leave? _____

Next most recent (name/location): _____

Time of involvement (approx.): _____ Were you a member? _____

Why did you leave? _____

Are you currently a member somewhere? _____ If so, which one? _____

Have you ever been a member of a secret order (Masons, Moose, Eastern Star, etc.) or of any group or organization which could be considered questionable or controversial? _____

II. MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

All prospective members must meet the following three qualifications:

1. REDEEMED - A member of FBC needs to be a born-again believer. Please look up the following verses and write a brief explanation of each verse as it personally relates to your salvation.

John 1:12

John 3:16

Acts 4:12

Ephesians 2:8-9

1 John 5:11-13

Romans 10:9-10,13

If you died today and appeared before God in Heaven and He asked you, "Why should I let you in?," how would you reply?

How confident that you are saved? 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. Baptized - A member of FBC needs to be obedient in biblical "believer's baptism" (immersion, following salvation). Please look up these verses and briefly explain what you believe each verse teaches as it relates to baptism.

Matthew 28:19-20

John 3:23

Acts 2:41

Acts 8:35-39

Have you been baptized by immersion since committing your life to Jesus as your Lord and Savior? _____

III. DOCTRINE

Ideally, church members should be in alignment with what their church believes and teaches. At the same time, if a person has undoubtedly been redeemed by Christ and made part of the Family of God, and is not living in unrepentant sin, should we not welcome such a one? Those who are young in the faith may not yet know what they believe. Others may have come to slightly different positions on certain things. Some believers may be untaught or uncertain in some areas of biblical truth and sincerely may not be sure what they believe on certain doctrines. This is understandable.

In a growing church family, everyone comes in at different stage of development. With this in mind, we do well to remind ourselves that growth and the proper understanding and application of Scripture is a lifelong process which we are all in pursuit of, and this is as it should be.

At the same time, teachability and an enduring commitment to doctrinal fidelity are the keys. The Apostle Paul commended the Bereans (Acts 17:11) for their devout study of God's Word and their commitment to chasing and maintaining pure doctrine. We seek to carry that forward.

We recognize that some of our beliefs and positions in the doctrinal statement go beyond core issues like salvation. Yet, believing that our stated beliefs faithfully represent the clear teaching of Scripture, we remain committed to their adherence. It is our conviction that if a believer faithfully attends church, reads their Bible, and seeks to grow in the Lord, they will come to the same conclusions that our doctrinal statement affirm.

In order to preserve our doctrinal identity and integrity, we ask that you carefully review our doctrinal and positional statements, and then indicate your position below.

Do you have any reservations about any of our doctrinal or position statements? Yes No
If yes, please explain. _____

I am willing to abide by the doctrinal position and member's covenant and of FBC. Yes No

I agree to uphold the positions stated in our doctrinal statement and position papers. Yes No

Please sign below and return the completed packet to Pastor Ben.

Sign: _____ Date: _____

OUR CHURCH COVENANT

As regenerated members of God's new covenant family who have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and His atoning work on Calvary's cross, and as baptized members of this local church, we commit ourselves to God and to one another to be Christ-like in our relationship with one another through the presence, guidance, and power of God's Holy Spirit. We will love one another as Christ loves us, honor one another above ourselves, be kind and compassionate to one another, encourage and build up one another, comfort one another, and offer hospitality to one another.

We will have a spirit of unity based on our common bond in Christ, be united in mind and doctrinal commitments, meet together regularly, celebrate the Lord's Table together, have equal concern for each other, suffer when one suffers and rejoice when another is honored, and consider others more important than ourselves.

We will use our God-given, Biblical knowledge to instruct one another, use our spiritual gifts to bless one another, use the Word of Christ to teach and admonish one another, and nurture one another toward spiritual maturity as measured by the life and ministry of Jesus.

We will confess our sins to one another when we have become separated by them, pray for each other, encourage the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with one another, forgive one another as the Lord forgives us, and gently restore those that sin and have become separated from us as the result.

We will not talk negatively about one another, nor pass judgment on one another, nor put a stumbling block in one another's way, nor be morally impure, nor greedy, nor foolish in the stewardship of our time, spiritual gifts, financial resources, or conversation, but instead will be filled with the Spirit. As such, we will serve one another in such ways that each of us will become an increasingly mature disciple of Jesus.

We will let the light of our lives shine together and bring glory to the Triune God. We will endeavor to win the lost as we introduce our neighbors to Jesus. And, if God should move us away from this body of believers, we will unite with another local congregation whose beliefs and practices reflect the teachings of God's holy Word.

PLEASE DETACH LAST SHEET AND SUBMIT THE REST TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

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PLEASE KEEP THIS COPY AND REVIEW PERIODICALLY
