

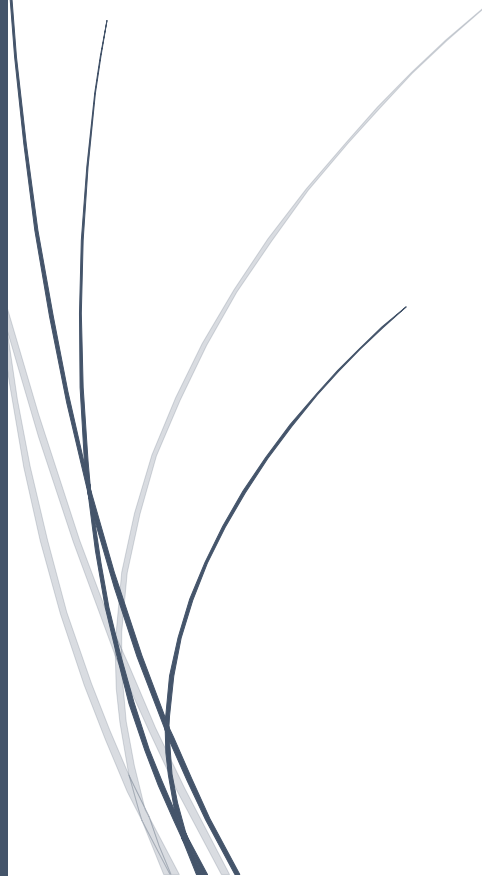




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# Membership Class

“Becoming a member of  
Christ, His Church, and One Another.”



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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UNIT 1: WE ARE MEMBERS of CHRIST.....	5
SHARING YOUR BACKGROUND .....	6
SHARING YOUR EXPECTATIONS .....	7
CLASS GOALS .....	7
DOCTRINE #1: GOD, MAN, AND SALVATION.....	8
GOD, MAN, AND SALVATION (References).....	9
UNIT 2: WE ARE MEMBERS of the CHURCH.....	11
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH?.....	12
CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THIS BODY .....	12
WE ARE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY.....	12
WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF FIRST BAPTIST? .....	13
Becoming a member is not something you do just for yourself.....	13
Becoming a member means a higher level of commitment.....	13
Why enter a higher level of commitment? .....	13
DOCTRINE #2: CHURCH LIFE.....	14
CHURCH LIFE (References).....	15
UNIT 3: WE ARE MEMBERS of ONE ANOTHER.....	17
S.H.A.P.E. Ministry Assessment Tool.....	18
THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:4-10; Eph. 4:11).....	19
CHURCH STRUCTURE.....	20
CHURCH MINISTRIES .....	20
DOCTRINE #3: CHRIST AND THE WORLD AROUND US.....	22
CHRIST AND THE WORLD AROUND US (References) .....	23
FINAL STEPS TO BECOMING A MEMBER:.....	25
CHURCH COVENANT .....	27



# UNIT 1: WE ARE MEMBERS of CHRIST

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*Ephesians 5:30 ... because we are **members of His body**.*

*1 Corinthians 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are  
**members of Christ himself?***

*1 Corinthians 12:27 Do you not know that your bodies are  
**members of Christ himself?***

MAIN POINT: THOUGH WE HAVE DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS,  
WE ALL ARE A PART OF CHRIST'S BODY BY HIS GRACE.

## SHARING YOUR BACKGROUND

Describe your salvation experience and baptism

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What denominations have you been associated with in the past?

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How have you served in church before?

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What experiences (positive and negative) have formed your view of church?

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## SHARING YOUR EXPECTATIONS

What do you believe is the church's responsibility to you?

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What do you believe your responsibility is to the church?

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What would you like to offer this church?

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What would you like to learn from this class?

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## CLASS GOALS

**My desire for this class:** Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (Philippians 2:2)

- Learn what membership entails according to scripture and to our bylaws
- Learn each other's beliefs and discuss any differences we may have
- Discover how we can serve & care for each other by plugging into a small group & a ministry.



## DOCTRINE #1: GOD, MAN, AND SALVATION

### THE BIBLE IS:

- Inspired by God, Written by men.①
- Totally true and trustworthy.②
- God's revelation to man of Himself, His instruction, and the principles by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions are judged.③
- A testimony to Christ who is the focus of divine revelation.④

### GOD IS:

- One God, & 3 in 1 (Father/Son/Spirit).①
- All knowing and all powerful, perfect.②
- The Creator, yet personal.③
- Ruler of the universe.④
- Eternal.⑤
- Owed our love, reverence, and obedience.⑥

### GOD THE FATHER:

- Reigns over His universe, creatures, and history with care.①
- Is father to all who become His children through faith in Jesus Christ.②
- Is fatherly in attitude toward all men.③

### GOD THE SON (JESUS CHRIST):

- Was, is, and is to come.①
- Took on human nature being conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.②
- Obediently did what God wanted without ever sinning.③
- Died on the cross in our place.④
- Was literally raised from the dead.⑤
- Ascended into heaven. ⑥
- Is with God now, mediating between us and God. ⑦
- Will return one day to judge the world and call out the saved. ⑧

### GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT:

- Helps people understand truth.①
- Exalts Christ, calling men to be saved.②
- Baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation.③
- Improves Christian character.④
- Gives spiritual gifts by which believers serve God in His church.⑤
- Seals the believers unto the day of final redemption. ⑥
- Guarantees that God will bring believers into the full stature of Christ. ⑦
- Enlightens and empowers the church in worship, evangelism, and service.⑧

### MAN:

- Is the special creation of God, made in His own image, created male & female.①
- Was created innocent of sin with free will.②
- By free will the 1st man sinned and brought sin into the human race.③
- As soon as he is capable of moral action, man becomes a transgressor and is under condemnation.④
- Man can only be brought into holy fellowship with God by His grace through Jesus Christ.⑤
- Every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.⑥

### SALVATION:

- Salvation:** The redemption of the whole man, and is free to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. There is no salvation apart from faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.①
- Regeneration:** Here believers become new creatures with changed hearts. The Holy Spirit convicts a sinner of sin and then the person repents away from sin toward God and faith in Jesus. **Faith** is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.②
- Justification** God's gracious, full acquittal of sinners who repent & believe in Christ. This brings the believer to a relationship of peace and favor with God.③
- Sanctification:** here a believer is set apart for God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. This growth continues throughout the person's life.④
- Glorification:** The culmination of salvation is the final perfected state. Believers may still fall into sin, which has many consequences. Yet, by God's power, they will persevere to the end, never falling away grace.⑤

# GOD, MAN, AND SALVATION (References)

## THE BIBLE IS:

- ① Psa. 19:7-10, Psa. 119:89; Is. 34:16, 40:8, 2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:19-21
- ② Psalm 119:160
- ③ Acts 17:11
- ④ John 5:39

## GOD IS:

- ① - God is one: Deut. 6:4
- “Us” passages: Gen. 1:26, 3:22, 11:7; Is. 6:8
- Triad: 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2
- Jesus is God: John 1:1, 5:18, 8:58, 10:33
- Holy Spirit is God: Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 3:16; Heb. 10:15-17
- ② 1 John 3:20; Matt. 19:26; Deut. 32:4.
- ③ Col. 1:16, 1 John 4:8.
- ④ Psalm 115:3, Pro. 16:9.
- ⑤ Rev. 1:8
- ⑥ Rev. 4:11

## GOD THE FATHER:

- ① Eph. 4:6
- ② John 1:12-13
- ③ Mal. 2:10

## GOD THE SON (JESUS CHRIST):

- ① Rev. 1:7-8
- ② John 1:14; Phil. 2:7; Matt. 1:18
- ③ Heb. 5:8; Luke 22:42; Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:22.
- ④ Is. 53:4-5; 1 Pet. 2:24
- ⑤ 1 Cor. 15:1-8
- ⑥ Mark 16:19
- ⑦ Mark 16:19; 1 Tim. 2:5
- ⑧ Heb. 9:28; Rev. 22:12

## GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT:

- ① John 16:13
- ② John 16:14
- ③ 1 Cor. 12:13
- ④ 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2
- ⑤ 1 Cor. 12:4-11
- ⑥ Eph. 1:13-14, 4:31
- ⑦ Eph. 1:17
- ⑧ John 4:24; Luke 4:18,19; Rom.7:6.

## MAN:

- ① Gen 1:27-31
- ② Ecc. 7:29, Josh. 24:15; Psalm 119:30
- ③ Rom. 5:12
- ④ Rom. 3:23; Matt. 19:13-15.
- ⑤ 1 John 4:10; John 14:6.
- ⑥ Gal. 3:28

## SALVATION:

- ① **Salvation:** Rom. 6:23, 1 Pet. 1:18-19; John 14:6.
- ② **Regeneration:** 2 Cor. 5:17; Ez. 36:26. John 16:8, Acts 3:19-20. Gal. 2:20
- ③ **Justification:** Gal. 2:16-17; Rom. 5:1-2.
- ④ **Sanctification:** 2 Tim. 2:21; Heb. 10:14.
- ⑤ **Glorification:** 1 John 3:2-4; 1 John 2:1, Heb. 12:6. Phil. 1:6; 1 pet. 1:5; Heb. 7:25; Jud. 1:24.



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# UNIT 2: WE ARE MEMBERS of the CHURCH

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***1 Corinthians 12:12-13** For even as the body is one and yet has **many members**, and all the **members of the body**, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit **we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

MAIN POINT: WE TAKE PART IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES TOGETHER  
THROUGH SHARING, SERVING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH?

### READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE FROM ACTS 2:42-47:

*42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

### NOW, LIST AS MANY THINGS AS YOU CAN THAT THIS CHURCH DID:

*(Answer key is on next page)*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THIS BODY

*Colossians 1:18: He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.*

## WE ARE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY

*1 Corinthians 12:12-14: 12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also [is] Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many*

## WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF FIRST BAPTIST?

Becoming a member is not something you do just for yourself.

- It is something you do for others.
- It is something you do for God's Kingdom.
- It is a higher level of commitment in the body of Christ.

Becoming a member means a higher level of commitment...

### *A HIGHER COMMITMENT: TO KNOWING GOD'S HEART*

All Christians have the privilege and responsibility of knowing God's heart. Members of First Baptist commit to the additional responsibility of **voting** on church issues at business meetings. When we vote on church issues, we are committing to expressing God's heart accurately through the way our church spends money, plans its programs, and chooses leadership.

### *A HIGHER COMMITMENT: TO BECOMING CHRIST MINDED*

All Christians should strive to be Christ minded. Members of First Baptist also commit to being **accountable** to one another as we become Christ minded. When we see sin in one another's lives, we compassionately try win the other back to Christ's way. This occurs through the process of Church Discipline outlined in the Church By-Laws, Article VIII and the teaching of Christ in Matthew chapter 18:12-20.

### *A HIGHER COMMITMENT: TO SERVING SPIRIT FILLED*

All Christians should work to serve Spirit filled. Members of First Baptist can further commit to this task by **serving on and leading committees**. This includes the committees outlined in Article III of the By-Laws and other official positions.

Why enter a higher level of commitment?

#### **Consider the promise found in 2 Corinthians 9:6:**

*"Remember this--a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop."*

#### **A higher level of commitment results in reaping:**

The joy of seeing others come to know God's heart, the joy of becoming more Christ minded, and the joy of serving Spirit filled in God's kingdom.

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Answer key to the other side of this page:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Apostle's doctrine (Reading scripture) | • All things in common (giving)           |
| • Fellowship (They knew each other)      | • Taking care of the needy                |
| • Breaking of bread (Eating together)    | • One accord (unity)                      |
| • Prayers                                | • House to house (Living together)        |
| • Fearing God (Under His leadership)     | • Praised God (worship)                   |
| • Miracles and signs (God's power)       | • Favor with people (lifestyle witnesses) |
| • Gathering together (Services)          | • The Lord added... (evangelism)          |

## DOCTRINE #2: CHURCH LIFE

### THE CHURCH

- ❑ Is an independent local group of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.①
- ❑ Is the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.②
- ❑ Operates under the Lordship of Christ, governed by His laws, through democratic processes. Each member is accountable to Christ as Lord. ③
- ❑ Exercises the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by God's Word, Seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.④
- ❑ Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men according to Scripture.⑤

### BAPTISM

- ❑ Is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.①
- ❑ Is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. ②
- ❑ It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead.③
- ❑ It is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.④

### LORD'S SUPPER:

- ❑ Is a symbolic act of obedience when members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Jesus and anticipate His second coming.①

### CHURCH ACTIVITY:

- ❑ **THE LORD'S DAY:** The first day of the week is the Lord's Day to be regularly observed. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private.
- ❑ **EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS:** It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations.
- ❑ **DISCIPLESHIP:** The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for discipleship. An adequate system of Christian discipleship is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.
- ❑ **STEWARDSHIP:** God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. We are to serve Him with our time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.
- ❑ **COOPERATION:** Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

## CHURCH LIFE (References)

### THE CHURCH

- ① 1 Peter 5:1-3; 1 Cor 12:13; Matt 18:19; Phil 1:1-5.
- ② 1 Cor 12:12-13; Rev. 7:9-14.
- ③ Eph 1:22-23; Phil 2:2; Rom. 12:16.
- ④ 1 Cor. 12:4-11; 1 Tim 3:15; Matt. 28:16-20.
- ⑤ 1 Tim. 3:1-13 (Note: What we term Pastor is scripturally called an overseer here.) 1 Tim. 2:11-13.

### BAPTISM

- ① Mark 1:10; Acts 8:39; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12; Matt 28:16-20.
- ② Acts 10:48; Rom 6:1-7.
- ③ Rom. 6:1-5.
- ④ 1 Cor 12:13. 1 Cor. 11:27.

### LORD'S SUPPER:

- ① Symbolic: Note other instances Jesus spoke symbolically: "I am the Vine" (John 15:1), the Door (John 10:9), the Bread (John 6:41).

### CHURCH ACTIVITY:

- ❑ **THE LORD'S DAY:** Rev. 1:10; John 20:19; John 20:26; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2.
- ❑ **EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS:** Acts 8:1-4; Matt. 28:16-20; Rom. 5:5; 1 Pet. 3:15; 1 Cor. 10:31; Matt. 5:16; Phil. 4:5; Mark 16:15.
- ❑ **DISCIPLESHIP:** Matt 28:18-20; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 2:2; Acts 2:42.
- ❑ **STEWARDSHIP:** James 1:17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 2 Cor. 9:6-15; Cheerfully: 2 Cor. 9:7; regularly: systematically: 1 Cor. 16:2; proportionately: Mark 12:41-44; 2 Cor. 8:11; liberally: 2 Cor. 9:10-11.
- ❑ **COOPERATION:** Denominations: 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 1 Cor. 5:1-2.





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# UNIT 3: WE ARE MEMBERS of ONE ANOTHER

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*Romans 12:4-5 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

MAIN POINT: WE SERVE EACH OTHER AND THE WORLD THROUGH  
OUR VARIETY OF GIFTS.

## S.H.A.P.E. Ministry Assessment Tool

**Spiritual Gifts:** God gives us spiritual gifts to help the church out. Take a look at the spiritual gifts on the next page. Check the ones that you believe you may have or would like to explore. List them below.

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**Heart:** Describe what you love to do. This may include age groups and types of people you enjoy working with, church ministries, issues, or possible needs that excite or concern you, and ministry or missions that keeps coming to your mind again and again.

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**Abilities:** List talents and abilities you may have. These can include job skills, subjects you have taught, personal assets, artistic abilities, craftsmanship, etc.

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**Personality:** On a scale from one to five do you ...

... Consider yourself to be	<b>Introverted</b>	1	2	3	4	5	<b>Extroverted</b>
... Prefer to be	<b>Structured</b>	1	2	3	4	5	<b>Spontaneous</b>
... Prefer being	<b>Innovate</b>	1	2	3	4	5	<b>Practical</b>
... Make decisions based on	<b>Thinking</b>	1	2	3	4	5	<b>Feeling</b>

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**Experience:** List experiences that may be useful in ministry. These may include previous church service, life experiences, education, special interests, and spiritual experiences.

## THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:4-10; Eph. 4:11)

<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Exhortation:</b> To come alongside of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God wants them to be (Greek Word: paraklesis - calling to one's side)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Administration:</b> To steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Discernment:</b> To clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hospitality:</b> To warmly welcome people, even strangers, into one's home or church as a means of serving those in need of food or lodging (Greek Word: philoxenos - love of strangers; 'philos'=love; 'xenos'=stranger)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prophecy:</b> To speak forth the message of God to His people (Greek Word: prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God; 'pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Healing:</b> To be used as a means through which God makes people whole either physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mercy:</b> To be sensitive toward those who are suffering so as to feel genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion but more so caring for them with deeds of love to help alleviate their distress.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Wisdom:</b> To apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Knowledge:</b> To seek to learn as much about the Bible as possible through the gathering of much information and the analyzing of that data</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Leadership:</b> To stand before the people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the body with such care and diligence so as to motivate others to get involved in the accomplishment of these goals</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Prophecy:</b> To speak forth the message of God to His people (Greek Word: prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God; 'pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Generosity:</b> To share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Faith:</b> To be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Evangelism:</b> To be a messenger of the good news of the Gospel (Greek Word: euaggelistes - preacher of gospel; eu=well, angelos=message - messenger of good)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Miracles:</b> To be enabled by God to perform mighty deeds which witnesses acknowledge to be of supernatural origin and means</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Serving:</b> To identify undone tasks in God's work, however menial, and use available resources to get the job done (Greek Word: diakonia - deacon, attendant 'diako'=to run errands)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Teaching:</b> To instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Helps:</b> To render support or assistance to others in the body so as to free them up for ministry</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tongues / interpretation:</b> To speak or understand in a language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language or the body be edified</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pastor / Shepherding:</b> To be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Missionary:</b> To be able to minister in another culture.</p>

## CHURCH STRUCTURE

- Southern Baptist Convention:** Messenger to meetings
- Missouri Baptist Convention:** Messenger to meetings
- Lamine Association:** Serve as a messenger of the church, on a team (mission/equipping/pastoral or admin team)
- Church Council:** Serve as a church officer, Attend to know what's going on
  - Business Meeting:** Voter, attend and participate

## CHURCH MINISTRIES

### PASTOR / SECRETARY

- Training for ministry
- Prayer Warrior: At home, Sunday Morning 9 am, Sunday Evening 6 pm, National Day of Prayer
- Specific Talents: Graphic design (Website, publicity), Art, talents we don't know we need yet!
- Laurie Care Center; Wheel residents in, participate in worship

### DEACONS

- Deacon or a Yokefellow
- Checking in on church members in need of encouragement (Sunday nights)

### TRUSTEES

- Trustee or a Jr. Trustee
- Church workdays
- Van ministry: Driver, asst.

### CLERK

- Clerk or an Asst. Clerk

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

- Treasurer or Asst. Treasurer
- Member of the committee: budgeting
- Giving (Offering, special offerings, special needs)

### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

- Chairperson
- Fellowship Dinner: Food prep, Decorating
- TeamKID meals
- Valentine's Banquet: Food prep, decorating, entertainment and games
- Men's prayer breakfast: food prep

### SOLACE COMMITTEE:

- Card writer, ordering flowers for funerals

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- Music Director
- Music: Instrumentalist, Singer, Special Music (Sunday, Wed., Laurie Care, Revival, Special events, other)
- Sound booth: Run video projector, Record services on video, Run soundboard (Sun./Wed/other)
- Choir Singer

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

- Chairperson or member, Serve in selecting committee heads

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Chairperson, Write job descriptions, liaison between personnel and church

### USHER COMMITTEE

- Chairperson
- Take up offering
- Greeters

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE:**

- Chairperson
- Trunk R Treat: Candy giver, Food prep, Outdoor grounds prep, Greeter
- Hillbilly fair prayer booth: Pray with guests
- Disaster relief
- Visiting the needy and lost (Sunday nights, other)
- WOM: Member, serving others
- Shoe boxes: Filler, provide items, organize
- CFC: Sorting clothes, etc. / Board member
- Bingo: Call numbers, Assist, give prizes out
- Thanksgiving meal: Provide food, Deliverer
- Bakery to Businesses: Make baked goods for employees of local businesses
- Bon fires: Starting the fire, Food prep, Meeting and greeting
- Other Events

**DISCIPLESHIP TEAM****General**

- Director, Asst. Director, Secretary
- Teachers: Sunday School, Asst. Teachers, Special Bible Study leaders, Tupelo Honey's study leader

**Teen**

- Ready18 Helper

**Children**

- Children's church teacher or helper
- TeamKID: teacher / Tutor / memory verse helper / Active games leader
- Camp: Cabin Leader / Musician / Other
- VBS: Teacher / Assistant / Food prep / Other: Acting, crafts, music, etc.

**Nursery:**

- Sunday morning / Revival week / Westside Connection / Other events

## DOCTRINE #3: CHRIST AND THE WORLD AROUND US

### THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

- ❑ God's kingdom is His rule over the universe and His kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King.①
- ❑ It is the realm of salvation into which men enter by submission to Christ.②
- ❑ It will come fully upon the return of Jesus Christ at the end of this age.③
- ❑ Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth.④

### LAST THINGS:

- ❑ God, in His own time and way, will bring the world to its appropriate end.①
- ❑ Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth at that time.②
- ❑ The dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness.③
- ❑ The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment.④
- ❑ The righteous in resurrected & glorified bodies will receive their reward and dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.⑤

### CHRISTIAN AND SOCIAL ORDER:

- ❑ All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society.①
- ❑ Methods for the improving society can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual in salvation.②
- ❑ Christians should oppose racism, greed, selfishness, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography.③
- ❑ We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick.④
- ❑ We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.⑤

### PEACE AND WAR:

- ❑ It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on God's principles.①
- ❑ The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel and the practical application of His law of love.②
- ❑ Christians are to pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.③

### GOVERNMENT:

- ❑ God alone is Lord of the conscience. He has left it free from the teachings and laws of men that go against His Word.①
- ❑ Government is ordained by God, so it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God.②
- ❑ Church and state should be separate.③
- ❑ The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends.④

### THE FAMILY:

- ❑ God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society, composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.①
- ❑ Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. This is the God ordained framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression, and the means for procreation.②
- ❑ The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, both created in God's image.③
- ❑ A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He is to provide, protect, and to lead his family.④
- ❑ A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ.⑤
- ❑ Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.⑥

# CHRIST AND THE WORLD AROUND US (References)

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

- ① Psalm 103:19; John 3:5-7.
- ② 2 Peter 1:10-11
- ③ 1 Cor. 15:24.
- ④ Matt. 6:10; 1 Cor. 3:9

## LAST THINGS:

- ① 2 Peter 3:3-13.
- ② 2 Thess. 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:13.
- ③ 2 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:11-15.
- ④ Revelation 21:8; Matthew 25:46.
- ⑤ 1 Cor. 15:42-53; Matt. 25:46; 1 Tim 6:17-19; John 3:16; 1 Cor. 2:9

## CHRISTIAN AND SOCIAL ORDER:

- ① 2 Cor. 10:5
- ② John 15:5; Matthew 13:21.
- ③ Racism: Rom. 10:12; Greed: 1 Tim. 6:10; Selfishness: 1 Cor. 10:24; Sexual Immorality: 1 Cor. 6:18; Adultery: Ex. 20:14; Homosexuality: Lev. 18:22, 20:13; 11 Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 1:26-28; 1 Tim. 1:10; Pornography: Matt. 5:28; Job 31:1.
- ④ Orphans: James 1:27; Ex. 22:22-24; The Needy: Pro. 19:17; Luke 12:33-34; Pro. 28:7; The Abused: Eph. 6:4; Pro. 31:8; The Aged; Lev. 19:32, The Helpless: Pro. 31:8, The Sick: James 5:14-16.
- ⑤ Abortion: Ex. 21:22-25; Lev. 24:19-20; Psalm 51:5, 22:10. Until natural death: Lev. 19:32.

## PEACE AND WAR:

- ① Rom. 12:18; 2 Cor. 2:16.
- ② Eph. 2:13-14; Is. 9:6; 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:20.
- ③ Rev. 22:20; 2 Tim. 4:8.

## GOVERNMENT:

- ① Rom. 14:1-23; Acts 4:19, 5:29.
- ② Rom. 13:1; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13.
- ③ Matt. 22:21.
- ④ 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 6:12.

## THE FAMILY:

- ① Eph. 3:14-15.
- ② Mark 10:4-9; 1 Cor. 7:10-11; Matt. 5:28; Gen. 1:28.
- ③ Gen. 1:26-28; 1 Pet. 3:7; Gal. 3:28.③
- ④ Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:4, 5:8.
- ⑤ Eph. 5:22-23.
- ⑥ Psalm 139:13,16; Psalm 127:3; Deut. 6:4-9; Ex. 20:12





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# FINAL STEPS TO BECOMING A MEMBER:

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*If you are coming by letter of a church, make sure the clerk knows to request such a letter.*

## **On (preferably) a Sunday:**

- You will be presented to the church for membership at the end of the service. There may be an opportunity here to share what God has done that led to this decision on your part.
- The church covenant will be read (See next page). This will give an opportunity for you and the church to enter that covenant.
- After reading the covenant, the church will vote.
- After the vote, you will write your name in the official church membership directory.

## **WHY DO WE VOTE?**

We are legally a non-profit organization. In order to maintain that legal status, we must vote on who is officially a member of the organization. Members are then granted the right to vote and the right to hold position within the organization.

## **We do not vote ...**

- To determine if a person is saved or not (This is God's business)
- To determine if a person is "good enough" to be a member (This is God's business)

## **WHEN MIGHT THE CHURCH VOTE NO?**

Although each person votes according to their own conscience, there is at least one scriptural reason to vote against someone's membership. If the individual has sin that has already been addressed by the church without any sign of repentance (Matt. 18:15-17), then such an individual is not to be accepted into the membership of the church but rather rejected (1 Cor. 5:1-13).



## CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from drunkenness and its promotion, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant, and the principles of God's Word.

