

# Becoming a Member of First Baptist Church

## Requirements:

According to our church constitution and by-laws a member of First Baptist Church must be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who has been (or will become) baptized by immersion since their conversion, and who is in agreement with the core doctrines of the church.

## Basic Expectations

In addition to these, you probably want to know what is typical of a growing Christian and their relationship to the church. These reflect Biblical expectations of a Christian lifestyle. Of course they may vary at times based on each individual's availability, and life-setting (including age, jobs, school, family, illness, etc.).

1. MEMBERS WORSHIP REGULARLY – As believers we are called to be worshippers (Hebrews 10:24-25) and should regularly worship at the church's services.
2. MEMBERS SERVE - Every member should serve God thru his/her church by being involved in ministry (see the entire New Testament). Generally it is an expectation that every member would be able to serve in at least one or more areas of ministry.
3. MEMBERS SUPPORT - Every member should help support the mission and ministries of their church. Accordingly, every member is encouraged to practice Biblical stewardship by volunteering when possible in appropriate activities, attending church meetings and giving systematically, proportionally and generously (Gal. 6:6, Mal. 3:8-10).
4. MEMBERS PRAY - Pray for the church, its leaders and its ministries.
5. MEMBERS VALUE SMALL GROUPS - As part of personal discipleship and growth and Christian community we encourage every member to be an active participant in at least one or more small groups (like a Sunday School class, Bible Study, service group, etc.)
6. MEMBERS LIVE CHRIST-LIKE LIVES - We expect members to work at living a consistent Christian lifestyle.
7. MEMBERS VALUE BIBLICAL AUTHORITY - We are offering ourselves to one another to be encouraged, corrected, and served. We are placing ourselves under leaders and submitting to their authority and teaching (Heb. 13:7).
8. MEMBERS PROMOTE UNITY – We promote unity in the body (Eph. 4:3). We seek to be transparent in our relationships with other church members in which they care for, encourage, rebuke, teach, and learn from each other (Eph. 4:15-16). We value unity enough to pursue Biblical reconciliation under difficult circumstances or if conflict arises.
9. MEMBERS ARE FAMILY – As such we use the spiritual gifts and talents that God has given them to build up the body however we can (1 Cor. 12:7).

## General Path to Membership

1. ATTEND THE ONRAMP CLASS – A four week class to learn about the church's vision, and basic practices and beliefs.
2. BAPTISM -The ordinance of baptism marks the entrance into the fellowship of the local church. By this solemn act, a person gives dramatic testimony to those with whom he will live and worship of his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. A person who has never been so baptized does so to become a member.
3. COME FORWARD DURING A WORSHIP SERVICE - At the conclusion of each worship service, a hymn is sung and opportunity is given to publicly confess faith in the Lord Jesus as well as to request baptism and membership. This public profession is a wonderful opportunity to testify to the great things the Lord has done for you and to "name the name of Christ" before others who have also given testimony to their Lord. Though it takes courage to publicly confess Christ, such a first step will help to prepare you for many future occasions in which your Christianity will require a courageous and steadfast faith in God.