

Randolph Street Baptist Church

Starting Point Class: Membership Process

We believe membership is a very important and necessary step for each individual believer. Partnering with a local church should not be taken lightly and should be entered into prayerfully, carefully and joyfully. With that in mind, our elders deem it necessary to give each prospective member a thorough introduction to Randolph Street. So, for an individual to become a member of Randolph Street, the following steps are necessary to complete:

1) Starting Point Class -

- Session 1: Understanding the Gospel & its Effects
- Session 2: Our Mission & Vision / Our History & Values
- Session 3: Ecclesiology: Church Leadership
- Session 4: Ecclesiology: Church Membership
- Session 5: Theological Distinctives
- Session 6: Baptism
- Session 7: Getting Involved

You can view these videos on our website at www.randolphonline.org

Access the videos by following:

Community → Membership → Interested in Membership

2) Commitment Form - After viewing above video class, Complete online form

This is a form to be completed and submitted to a staff pastor (one per person joining). This form contains questions that will help our elders serve you. You can access the form on the same page as the videos. Please complete the form at your earliest convenience.

3) Elder Interview

- You will meet with two elders or an elder and deacon.
- This process allows our elders to get to know the prospective member.
- It also allows the prospective member to get to know our elders.
- It provides an opportunity for our elders to have special prayer for the prospective member

4) Covenant Affirmation

- Publicly affirm the Church covenant with the congregation and all other new RSC members.
- To take place during a combined Sunday morning gathering.

Randolph Street Baptist Church

Starting Point Class:

Session 1: Understanding the Gospel & Its Effects

Truths of the Gospel	Effects of the Gospel

Randolph Street Baptist Church

Starting Point Class:

Session 2: Our Mission & Vision / Our History & Values

Ephesians 1:3-14 > 3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

(1) The _____ of God is the _____ of God.

- The activity of the _____.
- The activity of the _____.
- The activity of the _____.

(2) How is God accomplishing this mission in this world?

(3) 321 Project:

HISTORY

VALUES

(1) _____ **not** _____

(2) _____, **not** _____

(3) _____, **not** _____

(4) _____, **not** _____

(5) _____, **not** _____

(6) _____, **not** _____

(7) _____, **not** _____

(8) _____, **not** _____

(9) _____, **not** _____

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Starting Point Class:

Session 3: Ecclesiology - Church Government & Leadership

4 Primary Components of Local Church Government

(1) **Christ is the _____ of the Church** (Ephesians 5), **the Chief**
_____ of the Flock (1 Peter 5).

(2) **A _____ that takes _____ for the ministry.**

(3) _____ **who lead and oversee the church** (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Hebrews 13:7,17; I Peter 5:1-4).

(4) _____ (1 Tim 3:8-13) **who ensure & organize care for the church.**

Randolph Street Baptist Church

Starting Point Class:

Session 4: Ecclesiology - Church Membership

What is Church Membership?

Is Church Membership Biblical? Let me ask it this way - is a commitment to a identifiable, specific group a Biblical model? Yes. **5 clear proofs** of local church membership in the apostolic era.

(1) Church membership is indicated the charge to corporate gatherings.

Hebrews 10:23-25

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

1 Corinthians 14:23

23 Therefore if the whole church assembles together

(2) Church membership is indicated through the command for _____

_____.

1 Corinthians 5:1

1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

Matthew 18:15-17

15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

16 "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.**

17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

James 5:19-20

19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,
20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

(3) Church membership is indicated in the charge to _____.

1 Peter 5:1-3

1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

Acts 20:28

28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock [does this mean all believers everywhere? - no but...], among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers [clear, identifiable group], to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood

Hebrews 13:17

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

**(4) Church membership is indicated through the command to provide _____
_____ for those who are hurting.**

1 Timothy 5:3-16

3 Honor widows who are widows indeed; [Paul is concerned about a select group of people here.]

4 but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.

5 Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day.

6 But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.

7 Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach.

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

9 A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old [on the list? - sounds like an organized group of people huh?], having been the wife of one man,

10 having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.

James 5:13-16

13Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

14Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church [which church - the one among you] and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

15and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. 16Therefore, confess your sins to one another [who is the one another - those among you], and pray for one another so that you may be healed The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

(5) Church membership is indicated in the intentional _____ of one another.

Romans 12:1-16

10Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord 12rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

16Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Galatians 5:13

13For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another

1 Thessalonians 5:11

11Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Peter 4:8-10

8Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

9Be hospitable to one another without complaint. 10As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Randolph Street Baptist Church

Starting Point Class:

Session 5: Theological Distinctives

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Starting Point Class:

Session 6: Baptism

Randolph Street Baptist Church

Starting Point Class:

Session 7: Getting Involved

It is our desire to not overwhelm our members with activities for the sake of tradition or expectations. We intentionally limit what we ask you to engage in corporately so that you can be freed to be involved in your communities and organizations as ambassadors for Jesus Christ. With this in mind, here are some of our primary areas we engage in together at Randolph Street.

- **Worship Gatherings**

- Weekly Congregational Gatherings (Charleston & Teays Valley Campuses)
Our weekly times of worship serve as the foundation of our Church's calendar.
- 1st Sunday Combined Gatherings at Charleston Campus
These Gatherings are essential to our identity as One Church—Two Congregations.
- After-Gathering
Following our weekly Gatherings, refreshments are provided to encourage our people to interact with visitors and fellowship with each other.

- **Training**

- Training Hour at 9:30 on Sunday mornings
- Academy of Biblical & Theological Studies (www.ABTSWV.org)
These classes offer learning opportunities for anyone, whether they are just auditing or interested in pursuing a Master's degree.

- **Sunday Support Teams**

Wide-spread participation in these volunteer opportunities is vital to ensure all roles are filled.

- Nursery
- Hospitality
- Greeting, Ushering, Security
- Worship Team
- Training Hour Teachers & Assistants

- **Small Groups**

The purpose of our small group ministry is to give a format for families and individuals to meet during the week for fellowship, care, prayer, accountability, and the study of God's Word.

- Long-term Small Groups
These small groups will form based on relationships, geography, etc. and will meet in someone's home or at one of our Campus locations.
- Short-term Small Groups
These small groups are focused on specific needs, gender groups, age groups, etc. and will typically meet for a specified period of time.

- **Care Groups**

Every member at RSBC is assigned to a Care Group with its own deacon and elder. These Care Groups exist so that no member's needs are overlooked, whether physical or spiritual.

- Serving widows/widowers
- Visiting the sick
- Sharing prayer requests and committing to pray for each Care Group family
- Providing meals following a birth or death in the family

- **Outreach**

As followers of Christ, we are called to share and demonstrate God's love in the Gospel to those around us.

- Hope for Appalachia
- To Every Door
- Neighborhood Cookouts
- Cross Roads Pregnancy Care Center
- Union Mission 3rd Wednesday Meal
- Brookside Women and Children's Center
- BCM at University of Charleston
- Prison Ministry

★ Ministry is not merely performing a specific duty on a given Sunday. Rather, it is each one of us as a member of this local Church caring and taking responsibility for those around us in a variety of ways every day. We have covenanted together as a Church family and must strive to fulfill our role in God's plan for our Church.

to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Ephesians 4:12–13