

First Baptist Church Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Place a check by all that apply:

- I believe** that Jesus Christ is God and have trusted in Him as the forgiver of my sins (Savior) and the leader of my life (Lord).
- I have been baptized** by immersion following my personal trust in Jesus as my Savior and Lord.
- I have not been baptized** as a believer by immersion, but would like to be baptized.
- I have read** and am in agreement with the Affirmation of Faith of First Baptist Church (*attached*).
- I have read** and commit to the Vision of First Baptist Church (*attached*).
- I have read** and commit myself to living according to the Membership Covenant of First Baptist Church (*attached*).
- I have attended** the Fresh Starts class at First Baptist Church.

The situation that best describes my application is:

- I am joining a church for the first time.
- I am a former/returning FBC member.
- I am transferring my membership from the following Converge church:

- I am transferring my membership from the following evangelical church:

- Other: _____

Your Personal Faith Story: *Please use the space provided on the back of this form, or feel free to write/type your faith story on a separate sheet and attach it to this form.*

New Applicants – please share briefly the story of when you placed your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. You can use the following outline:

- * Your life before Christ (*if you trusted in Jesus at a very early age and cannot remember life before knowing Him, go on to the next point*)
- * When you placed your trust in Jesus (*where and how it happened; what brought you to that point of decision; who shared or prayed with you*)
- * Your life since trusting in Jesus (*what God has been teaching you; how you are different as a result of your relationship with Jesus*)

Former/Returning FBC Members – please share briefly what God has been doing in and through you in the time you have been away: (*where you have been; what has brought you back to FBC*)

Personal Profile

Date				
Name				
Address				
Home phone	Cell phone			
Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Date of Birth ____/____/____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced				
My occupation is:				
Hobbies/Interests:				
I have the following expertise:				
Areas of Service at First Baptist in which I am interested:				
<u>Children's Ministry</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Night Ministries <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Church <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism	<u>Youth Ministry</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Night Ministries <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism			
<u>Adult Ministry</u> <input type="checkbox"/> adultED Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Common Ground Café <input type="checkbox"/> DivorceCare <input type="checkbox"/> Door Host <input type="checkbox"/> Men <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer <input type="checkbox"/> LIFEgroups <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Center <input type="checkbox"/> Women <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism	<u>Senior Adult Ministry</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship Events <input type="checkbox"/> GriefShare <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism			
<u>Worship Ministry</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Drama <input type="checkbox"/> Instrumentalist <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalist <input type="checkbox"/> Sound & Lighting Tech <input type="checkbox"/> Usher				
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____				
I have attended First Baptist Church for _____ years _____ months				
I have been active in the following churches in the past:				
Name of Church	Location	Years Involved	Member	Areas of Service
Family Members				
Spouse's Name			Date of Birth ____/____/____	
Does your spouse attend First Baptist?				
Children				
First Name	Last Name	Birth Date	Lives with You?	Attends FBC?

Our Affirmation of Faith

What We Believe

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of all people, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it is the Conference or a district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

The Vision of First Baptist Church

Welcome Home: Forming and Extending the Family of God

PREAMBLE: As God has worked through our church family to have an eternal impact on many thousands of lives for over 125 years, we now seek to expand on this legacy left to us by our faithful and pioneering brothers and sisters.

PROBLEMS: In this age of digital relationships, our post-truth culture has lost nearly all sense of family, love and belonging, which creates a hostile desert of devastating loneliness and isolation. This life-threatening situation intensifies the extreme thirst experienced by all who are separated from our Heavenly Father. Due to the drought of real, loving relationships, our region is filled with people suffering from addictions, poverty, depression, confusion, suicide, abuse, homelessness, crime, neglect, the splintering of families, the trials of single parenting, and the abandonment of seniors. Merely doing what we have been doing will not deliver life-giving water to the wasteland that surrounds us or thwart the work of our enemy. Despite our active ministries, a penetrating assessment revealed significant challenges in discipleship and evangelism – issues that can and must change.

SOLUTIONS: Dependence on God is crucial as we discern and design a clearly defined discipleship pathway that helps each of us overcome our timidity in reaching out to our neighbors, sharing our faith, and inviting them to find the true source, Jesus Christ. As we fervently pray for the living water of the gospel to flow into our community, we must realize that we, the Spirit led and empowered family of God, are His vessel for making that happen. We, as a church, must be willing to let go of, without division or politics, even good things that are holding us back from God things. We must hold on to our unity of spirit and of focus for the sake of the gospel because we live in the last split-second of human history. The time to joyfully and courageously follow and live on mission for Jesus is now. By 2025, God will work through our congregation to revive this dry and thirsty land as we grow in Christ-likeness, sacrificially share His love and become family to everyone in need of one. By prioritizing intentional, life-on-life relationships, we will walk with each other on a discipleship journey that draws each one closer to Christ. Because our society is increasingly indifferent or even hostile to Christianity, we must all commit to bring Jesus to people in our world and to join forces with other Kingdom-minded believers, churches and missionaries. Through these combined efforts, we dream of hundreds of thousands of people here and around the world becoming connected to the family of God. The overflow of His living water will cause us to be agents of transformation and become family as we serve one another and our neighbors, meet needs through radical generosity, and care with authentic love.

RESULTS: As a result, the gospel will be lived and proclaimed near and far, and multitudes will place their faith in Jesus Christ. We will see the flourishing of marriage, parenthood, and family. Divorce, addiction, hopelessness and abuse will greatly diminish. Children in need of a family will be fostered and adopted into loving Christ-centered homes. There will be healing, wholeness and healthy relationships. Children and youth will grow in love and wisdom, young adults will thrive, adults will be renewed, and seniors will find purpose and belonging. Our church will become a channel where God's living water flows so deeply and so powerfully that all who encounter it will long to be part of it and will yearn *to know, love and become like Jesus*. And we will hand down to the next generation of Christ-followers at First Baptist another chapter of faithful obedience along with endless stories of the power of God doing immeasurably more than all we could have ever asked or imagined.

The Vision in a summary sentence can be stated as follows: ***As we seek God, He will form us to become increasingly Christ-like and to be family to everyone who needs family.***

At First Baptist Church, we never ask our members to do more than the *Bible* clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the *Bible* teaches that every Christian should do. These responsibilities are spelled out in the following covenant:

First Baptist Church Membership Covenant

Having received Jesus Christ as Savior, we confess Him to be the Lord of heaven and earth and of our lives. As evidence of our commitment to Him, we have been baptized and have joined the membership of this church.

As members of this church family we acknowledge that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We will endeavor to encourage one another in faith and good works, to pray for each other, to care for each other in sickness and distress, to speak words of encouragement, to give and receive admonition with meekness and love and to be ready always to reconcile grievances.

We agree that this church is a witness of God's saving Grace and we desire to extend this witness to our community and around the world. We acknowledge that our spiritual gifts, abilities, money and time are given to us by God. We will support the ministry of First Baptist Church by systematic giving and by volunteering to serve where our time and talents can be used effectively.

We will also endeavor, as a means of spiritual growth, to regularly attend worship and training experiences and to maintain personal Bible study and devotions.

We agree to live a holy life as free from sin as possible with the help of the Holy Spirit. We desire to demonstrate a distinctive Christian lifestyle. We believe this is best accomplished in an atmosphere of personal freedom by voluntary surrender to Jesus Christ. We agree to order our behavior to avoid the appearance of evil and not to hinder the spiritual growth of others. When necessary we will subordinate our personal rights for the good of the fellowship.

We agree that upon moving from this community we will, as soon as possible, unite with another local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

Conclusion: Unity in the church brings glory to God!