

NEXTSTEP

A Guide for New Members

Welcome to



HIGH TIDE CHURCH



Reach  Teach  Train

Our *hope* is that you grow closer to Jesus.
Our *heart* is to help you find the way.

Name:

Baptism:

Joined HTC on:

My Deacon:

If you should choose to leave HTC, please inform the Pastor or the Elders.



P.O. Box 127 | Dagsboro, DE 19939
302.732.3303 | office@hightidechurch.org

[HighTideChurch.org](https://www.HighTideChurch.org)

NEXTSTEP

Table of Contents

Our Mission	4
Does Membership Mean I am a Christian?	4
What is the Church?.....	5
Is Church Membership Biblical?	5
Why Should I Join a Church?.....	6
Requirements for Membership.....	7
What We Believe.....	8
Jesus First!.....	10
Finances.....	10
Affirmation & Commitment	12
Becoming a Healthy Christian	13
The Next Generation	14
Southern Baptist Convention	16

**He must become greater;
I must become less.**

John 3:30

NEXTSTEP

Reach♥Teach♥Train

Our Goal | Reached for Christ

Our goal is to clearly and accurately present the gospel to our generation.

Our Ambition | Taught to be like Christ

Our ambition is to be diligent students of God's Word, carefully instructing one another to observe all that Christ commanded.

Our Resolve | Trained to serve Christ

Our resolve is to do all we can to provide the necessary resources and opportunities for maturing Christians to be adequately prepared and motivated to serve Christ.

**Does membership mean
I am a Christian?**

No. There is only one way to becoming a Christian and that is turning from your sin, and trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. Church membership is meant to be a church's corporate affirmation of your profession of faith in Christ.

What is the Church?

The Church exists for the display of the Glory of God because all things exist for His Glory. For believers this means we know that there is something much bigger than ourselves. Through God's grace we have been invited into His redemptive purposes in the world.

Just as the human body relies upon mutual dependence of individual members for proper functioning, so the Body of Christ, the Church, requires sacrificial and responsible service by its individual members. Scripture says, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again, the head to the feet, 'I have need of you' " (**1 Corinthians 12:21**). Likewise, a member of the Church cannot say to another member that he or she is unnecessary. We all have gifts that differ according to the gracious provision of the Holy Spirit (**Roman 2:3-8**). Contrary to the beliefs of our culture, we need each other.

Is Church Membership Biblical?

Every Christian should join a church because Scripture requires it. Granted, there is no direct command in Scripture that says, "Every Christian must join a local church," but there are two factors in Scripture that indicate that every Christian should be a member of a local Church.

1. Jesus established the Church to be a public, earthly institution that would mark out, affirm and oversee those who profess to believe in Him. Jesus established the Church to publicly declare those who belong to Him in order to give the world a display of the Good News about Himself. Jesus wants the world to know who belongs to Him and who does not. And how is the world to know who belongs and who does not? The world is to see which people publicly identify with His people in the visible, public institution He established for His purpose. They are to look at the members of His Church. And if some people claim to be part of the universal church even though they belong to no local church, they are rejecting Jesus' plan for them and His Church. Jesus intends for His people to be marked out as a visible, public group, which means joining together in local churches.
2. Scripture repeatedly commands Christians to submit to their leaders. The only way to accomplish this is by publicly committing to be members of their flock and saying, in effect, "I commit to listening to your teaching, following your direction, and to submitting to your leadership." There is no way to obey the scriptural commands, to submit to your leaders, if you never actually submit by joining a local church.

Why Should I Join a Church?

To Assure

While a person should not feel he needs to join a church in order to be saved, belonging to a church is a step to being a healthy Christian. Christians, those who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, will naturally gravitate toward other Christians and will desire to be with them, to learn from them, and to serve them. A person who professes Christ but feels no desire to be among his believing brothers and sisters is not a healthy Christian.

To Evangelize

The gospel is best spread through collaborative efforts. Throughout the history of the church, people have attempted great things on their own and can be successful. But more often, great things have been accomplished through the collaborate efforts of Christians working together in Christ. If we are to reach this world with the gospel message of Jesus Christ, we must work together.

To Expose

As we labor, fellowship, and serve alongside other Christians, and as we observe the lives of other Christ-followers, we will see what biblical Christianity looks like. The more we see and experience genuine Christianity, the more the counterfeits will be exposed. As members of the local church, we support and submit to the teaching and work together to recognize truth and to expose corruptions and imitations of the true gospel.

To Edify

Joining a church will help Christians counter their sinful individualism and teach them the importance of seeking to serve and encourage others. The benefit of being a member of a local church is not primarily inward, but outward. Christians attend a local church so they might have opportunities to serve others and thus to serve God. Every Christian should be eager to serve within the church and to edify others through teaching, serving and exercising their spiritual gifts.

To Glorify

We can bring glory to God through the way we live our lives. God is honored when we are obedient to Him. He is glorified when His people come together in unity and harmony to find assurance, to evangelize the world, to expose false gospels, and to edify one another. God is glorified in and through the local church.

Requirements for Membership at HTC

1. **A Personal Profession of Faith** Romans 10:9-13

Each person should be prepared to share their testimony.

One testimony may not be as dramatic as another, but all Christians have a personal testimony. Besides your salvation experience, your testimony may include what God has done for you since you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior.

2. **Believer's Baptism** Matthew 28:19-20

Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water.

It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. In addition it symbolizes the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

- **Immersion**
- **Obedience**
- **Symbolic**
- **Death, Burial & Resurrection**

3. **Completion of NEXTSTEP**

The purpose of this membership class is to learn more about church and church membership before making the commitment to unite with the body of believers identified as High Tide Church. By your attendance, you will be better equipped to make this important decision.

Upon completion of these three requirements, you will receive a welcome letter and be introduced to the congregation during a Sunday morning service.



What we believe

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. HEBREWS 11:6

About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

**Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22 • Psalm 90:2 • Matthew 28:19 • 1 Peter 1:2
2 Corinthians 13:14**

About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

**Matthew 1:22-23 • Isaiah 9:6 • John 1:1-5 & 14:10-30 • Hebrews 4:14-15
1 Corinthians 15:3-4 • Romans 1:3-4 • Acts 1:9-11 • 1 Timothy 6:14-15 • Titus 2:13**

About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

**2 Corinthians 3:17 • John 16:7-13 & 14:16-17 • Acts 1:8
1 Corinthians 2:12 & 3:16 • Ephesians 1:13 • Galatians 5:25 • Ephesians 5:18**

About Man

Man is made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Man is scarred by disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates man from God.

Genesis 1:27 • Psalm 8:3-6 • Isaiah 53:6a • Romans 3:23 • Isaiah 59:1-2

About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to all men. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 • 2 Peter 1:20-21 • 2 Timothy 1:13

Psalms 119:105, 160 & 12:6 • Proverbs 30:5

About Eternity

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God, through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence.

John 3:16 • 1 John 2:25 & 5:11-13 • Romans 6:23 • Revelation 20:15

About Salvation

Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23 • Ephesians 2:8-9 • John 14:6 & 1:12 • Titus 3:5

Galatians 3:26 • Romans 5:1

About Eternal Security

Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives this security.

John 10:29 • 2 Timothy 1:12 • Hebrews 7:25 & 10:10-14 • 1 Peter 1:3-5

**He saved us, not because of righteous things
we had done, but because of his mercy.
He saved us through the washing
of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.**

Titus 3:5

Jesus first!

ELDERS

- Preach God's Word
- Teach God's Word
- Pray Over the Church
- Lead the Church
- Shepherd the Flock

DEACONS

- Equipment & Building
- Benevolence
- Oversee Volunteers
- Oversee Finances
- Oversee Worship
- Oversee Missions

STAFF

- Senior Pastor
- Worship Leader
- Youth Pastor
- Children's Director
- Preschool Director
- Creative Producer
- Admin/Communications

Ministries at HTC... and they are growing!

- Card
- Children & Youth
- Christmas Caroling
- Disaster Relief
- Mending Hearts
- Men's
- Missions
- The Pantry
- Prayer
- Set-up & Tear Down
- S.H.A.P.E.
- Sports
- Tech & Production
- Welcome
- Women's
- Wonderfully Made
- Worship
- Start a New Ministry

Finances at HTC

High Tide Church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), as an autonomous church. The church functions under the authority of the elders. The elders hire the pastor and make financial decisions on behalf of the church. HTC is incorporated and has 501 3(c) non-profit status through the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCMD). HTC is the owner of all property, vehicles and equipment.

Accountability

- Treasurer
- Bookkeeper
- Offering Counters
- Annual Review (by an outside agency)
- Yearly Tax Statements

Ways to Give

- Online Giving at hightidechurch.org
- Blank Giving Envelopes are available at the Welcome Table for those who would like to give by cash or check
- Numbered Giving Envelopes are provided upon request

**General Fund | MORE | James 1:27 | The Pantry
Annie Armstrong | Lottie Moon**



Notes

Affirmation & Commitment

THE MEMBER'S COVENANT

■ **I WILL** be diligent to exercise self-control so that my lifestyle exhibits true and Christian love and personal holiness.

■ **I WILL** faithfully assemble with this body of believers, striving to maintain unity and doing all that I can do to stimulate love and good deeds in others, as I seek to exercise my spiritual gifts in faithful service.

■ **I WILL** consistently contribute, as a good steward of God's blessings, time, talent and resources, in the measure that God prospers me, so that our local and worldwide ministry of spreading the gospel may continue.

■ **I WILL** teach biblical truth to my family and friends, as God gives me these opportunities. I will do this with a desire to see them come to trust Jesus Christ and to be saved.

■ **I WILL** always be willing to both give and receive admonition and instruction with meekness and in love.

■ **I WILL** commit to praying for the ministry and leadership at HTC, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the lost who need the Savior.

■ **I WILL** practice complete chastity unless married, and if married, complete fidelity within a heterosexual and monogamous relationship. Complete chastity and fidelity means that regardless of marital status, I will pursue purity and abstain from sexual immorality such as adultery, premarital sex and pornography.

ROMANS 13:11-14, 1 CORINTHIANS 6:15-20, 10:8, EPHESIANS 5:3, 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8, HEBREWS 13:4

■ **I WILL** seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation at HTC before pursuing divorce from my spouse.

MATTHEW 19:1-12, MARK 10:1-12, LUKE 16-18, 1 CORINTHIANS 7:10-11

NOTE: For the role of the church in the process of divorce, see Paul's concern for the regulation of legal matters within the assembly of the church. **1 CORINTHIANS 6**

■ **I WILL** refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful behaviors as the Bible dictates.

ROMANS 1:28-32, 13:13, GALATIANS 5:19-21, EPHESIANS 5:18, JAMES 3:3-18

My Signature



Reach♥Teach♥Train

Becoming a Healthy Christian



BELONG

Track 1
Belonging to
High Tide Church



GROW

Track 2
Growing in Your
Spiritual Maturity



SERVE

Track 3
Serving and
Developing
Your Gifts



GO!

Track 4
Going Out into
the World to Share
the Love of Christ



Start with Track: 1 Belong

If you are in this class, then you are on your way. This is a great time to ask questions, learn about High Tide Church, Christianity and baptism.



Then move to Track 2: Grow

Ok, now you have joined HTC... what's next? The best thing to do is to get connected into a Small Group. Check out the Small Groups page on the website or talk to an Elder, Deacon, Staff or a Volunteer at HTC!



Now it's time for Track 3: Serve

You've joined HTC, you are in a small group, now it's time to get involved. Serving at HTC is a great way to get to know more people at HTC and to grow closer in your relationship with Jesus. Serving is actually "doing" your faith.



You are now ready for Track 4: Go!

And finally, it's time to go out into the world and share the love of Christ with everyone. Whether it's in your neighborhood or in another country, we are commanded to go out into the world and make disciples of Christ.



MINISTRIES FOR *The Next Generation*



Babies and
Preschool



Kindergarten
5 years old - through
Fifth Grade



Middle School and
High School

CURRENTS

College & Career Ministry

AGES 18-25

Notes

High Tide Church and the Southern Baptist Convention

High Tide Church is part of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). To learn more about SBC, check out our website at HighTideChurch.org/SBC or go directly to SBC.net.

6 Seminaries
72 Languages

SBC CHURCHES MEET IN
72 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES
IN THE UNITED STATES ALONE.

5,000
Missionaries
LARGEST MISSION
SENDING ORGANIZATION
IN THE WORLD.

Quick Facts about SBC

This information comes directly from "Meet Southern Baptists" at www.sbc.net/about

Church Sizes	Vary from very small to very large
Culture	Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, and every subculture within each region
Age	Youthful church plants to historical organizations
Ministry Setting	Inner-city, storefront, suburban, small town, open countryside, cowboy, motorcycle
Race & Ethnicity	Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic, Korean, Chinese, Native American, Russian, and many other ethnic groups
Worship Style	Contemporary, traditional, and everything in between
Theological Perspective	All within the framework of historic biblical orthodoxy