Duties and Expectations of Church Members

- ♦ To have a personal relationship with lesus Christ
- ♦ To have followed Jesus in believer's baptism
- **♦ To live for Jesus and grow spiritually**
- ◊ To be faithful in Christian fellowship, faithfully supporting the services of the church
- **◊ To serve Jesus through His church**
- ♦ To share the doctrine, mission, and vision of the First Baptist Church
- ♦ To support the work of First Baptist Church with tithes and offerings
- ♦ To help win Tallassee to Jesus Christ

Privileges

Members of the church in good standing may partake of the Lord's Supper and speak in church conferences.

Those members twelve (12) and older may hold church office and vote in church conferences.



Watchcare Membership

Those who enjoy the fellowship of this church, but who are unable or unwilling to meet the requirements of membership regarding believer's baptism and subscribing to the doctrine and practices of the First Baptist Church, may enter into the watchcare of the church. This person shall enjoy the love and ministry care of the church and receive communications from the church through mail-outs, etc. However, this person shall not be privileged to vote in church conference, hold an office, or participate in the observance of the Lord's Supper. A person must be under the discipline of a church to participate in the Lord's Supper together with us. This church allows visitors from other Christian churches to partake of the Lord's Supper, provided that they are active and in good standing in their own churches. A person under the watchcare of this church is neither a member here nor an active member of his or her church.



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Exploring Church Membership at First Baptist



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The Principle of Church Membership



According to Jesus' commandment, Christians are to associate themselves together in local congregations. Such a fellowship is composed of Jesus' true disciples, who have experienced the new birth. It is evident by these person's profession and lifestyle that they have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

In joining a local church, believers unite with the rest of the congregation by covenant. Church members willingly commit to walk together, giving themselves to the Lord, and to one another. This covenant admits them to the privileges of the church, and in it they also place themselves under its discipline and government.

How One May Join First Baptist

Both salvation and believer's baptism are required for church membership. Believer's baptism is defined as baptism by immersion, after conversion, as a pictorial testimony to the saving work of Christ.

In order to be accepted as a member of the First Baptist Church, one must subscribe to the faith and practices of the church. Therefore, persons desiring membership shall enter into covenant together with the congregation. This covenant shall be signed by prospective members to profess their faith in Christ, agreement with church doctrine and practice, and to promise to support the services and work of the church.

Persons may be received into the church upon the following conditions:

Upon a profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus and as a candidate for believer's baptism.

Upon transfer of letter. This means that a person is a member of another Baptist church (or another church of like faith and order) and wants to move his or her membership from that church to

this one. The person's former church responds by mail, stating that such persons are members in good standing, granting their letter. One must already be a Christian and have been baptized by immersion to join in this manner.

By Statement, wherein a person states that he or she has been saved, that he or she was baptized after salvation by immersion and has been a member of a Baptist church (or one of like faith and order). This includes persons who were Baptists, moved their membership to another denomination, and now want to join The First Baptist Church. This would also apply to a Baptist church whose membership records have been lost.

By Rededication and Transfer or Statement. A believer who has been out of fellowship with God and out of church (as a member of another Baptist church or one of like faith and order) and wants to renew his or her commitment may join in this manner.

Until Jesus comes again, the local church is a "colony of heaven" (Phil. 3:20) and is a fellowship on a mission. The central purpose of the church is to honor and glorify God; the central task of the church is to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelism and missions. Only those who have a relationship with Christ, sharing his message and mission for the church should join.

