



Bramalea

BAPTIST CHURCH

BAPTISM AND
MEMBERSHIP AT
BRAMALEA
BAPTIST CHURCH



WORKING DEFINITIONS

Baptism = sign of covenant with God

Membership = sign of covenant with church members

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∞ BELIEF ∞

“...And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him.”

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

(Acts 2:21-24, 36)

WHO IS JESUS?

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed one?”

“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Mark 14:61-62

Things we know about Jesus:

- A Jewish man who was born in Bethlehem in Judaea around 4 BC
- Famous as a great teacher and miracle worker
- Crucified by Roman authorities
- His followers believed he was the Son of God and that he rose from the dead, and they took the good news throughout the world

Evidence from outside the New Testament:

- Roman historians Tacitus and Suetonius
- Jewish historian Josephus

Evidence from the New Testament:

- Human body
 - Fatigue – John 4:6
 - Hunger – Matthew 4:2
- Human emotions
 - Anger – Mark 11:15-17
 - Love – Mark 10:21
 - Sadness – John 11:32-36
- Human experiences
 - Temptation – Mark 1:13
 - Learning – Luke 2:46-52
 - Work – Mark 6:3
 - Obedience – Luke 2:51

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT HIMSELF?

- “I am the bread of life” – John 6:35
- “I am the light of the world” – John 8:12
- “I am the resurrection and the life” – John 11:25-26
- “I am the way and the truth and the life” – John 14:6
- He claimed to be able to forgive sins – Mark 2:5
- He claimed to be the one who would judge the world – Matthew 25:31-32, 40, 45
- He claimed to be the Messiah – Mark 14:61-62
- He claimed to be the Son of God – Mark 14:61
- He claimed to be God the Son – John 8:58, 20:28, 10:33

If he believed what he said, but wasn't in fact God, then he would have been a madman. If he didn't believe it but said it anyway (just to get influence over people) then he would have been a bad man.

What Evidence Is There?

Jesus backed up his claims by living the most amazing human life that has ever been lived.

- By Teaching – Saying the types of things that God would say (e.g. Matthew 5-7)
- By Works – Actions and miracles, always filled with love (e.g. John 10:37-38)
- By Character – So perfect that his worst enemies couldn't find any wrong doing of which to accuse him. (e.g. Luke 23:40)

Jesus also fulfilled the incredible prophecies given hundred of years before his birth. (Even if he tried to fulfill them to deceive people, it would have been impossible to arrange his own birth in Bethlehem!)

He was raised from the dead by God His Father.

- Theories of him not really having died or his body being stolen do not make logical sense
- He appeared to over 500 people in over 10 different locations over a period of six weeks
- People were changed after seeing him resurrected

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

The Problem

We humans have a problem – we have all sinned. The Bible, and Christians who follow the Bible, call this sin (see Romans 3:23).

When God first made humans, he made them perfectly – in His image. As people continue to disobey God and do wrong (sin) the image becomes more and more blurred.

When God made the world He made it perfect. He also gave humans authority to run the world. Human sin has distorted the natural world.

The Solution

Every once in a while someone is noble enough to die or suffer for someone else. Usually it is for someone they love or someone they feel responsible for.

God loved us so much that He took our place, substituted Himself for us, and suffered the results of our sin. Jesus' death on the cross took care of the problem of sin once for all (see 1 Peter 2:24).

The Conclusion

Each of us was drowning in our sin – dirty, being sucked under, to die and be separated from the God who loves us. But God in Jesus came to our rescue.

God has made a way for the results of our sin to be dealt with and for us to enter into relationship with Him. If we believe that Jesus suffered on the cross for us and we repent and turn from the things that we have done wrong, (our sins) we can begin to know God (see Galatians 2:20).

HOW CAN I BE SURE OF MY FAITH?

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:12-13

It is difficult to assess other people's stories to know if they are true. Particularly if they are outside of what we consider normal or likely. We all have different experiences, so how can we be sure of our faith? (see 2 Corinthians 5:17)

God is three persons in one – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We call this the Trinity. Each member of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – has a part to play in helping us to be sure of our faith.

God wants us to be sure that our faith is true, trusting in God: His promises to us; His work to free us from sin; and His Holy Spirit changing us from the inside out (see 1 John 5:13).

He wants us to be assured of our forgiveness and of eternity with Him. Assurance comes from taking God at His Word and trusting Him instead of our feelings.

What The Father Promises

It is safe to rely on God's promises in the Bible rather than on our changeable feelings.

The Bible is the book of God the Father. It is full of His promises to us.

- “I will come in” (Revelation 3:20) – He is waiting to start a relationship with us.
- “I am always with you” (Matthew 28:20) – He never leaves us even for a moment.
- “I give them eternal life” (John 10:28) – We have heaven to look forward to.

Faith has sometimes been defined as meaning “to lean your whole weight upon”. Faith is taking God's promises and daring to believe them.

What Jesus Did

Jesus saves us and made a relationship with God possible for us when we couldn't save ourselves.

We can never earn God's forgiveness, but Jesus died to destroy the barrier between God and us.

God loves us and died to prove it (see John 3:16-17).

He took our sins upon Himself (see Isaiah 53:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus' death on the cross also

- disarmed the powers of evil (see Colossians 2:15).
- defeated death and demonic powers.
- revealed God's love for us.
- showed that God is not a stranger to suffering.
- set an example of self-sacrificial love (see 1 Peter 2:21).

What The Holy Spirit Does

When someone surrenders their life to Christ, God's Holy Spirit comes to live within them (see Romans 8:9).

He transforms their character (see Galatians 5:22-23) and their relationships, both with God and other people.

He also brings a deep, personal conviction that they are God's child (see Romans 8:15-16).

NOTES

✧ BAPTISMS ✧

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:37-41)

HISTORY / TRADITION

- In the century before Jesus, Jews practiced ‘proselyte’ baptism on Gentile adults who wanted to join the Jewish faith. It was done in rivers with flowing water, signifying the washing away of sin.
- Around 30 AD, John ‘the Baptist’ called Jews to be baptized in preparation for the coming Messiah. People came from all over the country with this expectation.
- When Jesus came to be baptized, John tried to refuse Him. However, Jesus said that it was right to proceed and so was baptized out of obedience to God.
- Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus gave clear instructions to baptize future believers by saying “All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:18-20).
- Then the Apostles, in their ministry, taught baptism. For example, in Acts 2, we can see that after Peter’s preaching, new believers were baptized (3000 of them!). Philip baptized believers in Samaria (Acts 8:38). Paul was baptized after his conversion, as told in Acts 9:18.
- New Testament believers didn’t see baptism as optional. Believer baptisms were standard practice. And so we continue the tradition of baptism to this day.

BAPTISM IS...

Baptism is an outer look at inner life. It achieves many things:

- Although it isn't needed for salvation (Luke 23:39-43), and it doesn't help you earn salvation, it is a fulfillment of a command of Jesus (Matthew 18:18-20).
- It follows the example of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17) and identifies us with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We identify ourselves with a new life to God through Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:27-28).
- Baptism is a public declaration of one's identification with Jesus Christ. Many of the early converts were baptized in public places.
- It identifies us with the church, the body of believers (Galatians 3:27-28), especially through being a public witness (1 Corinthians 10:1-15, Romans 2:28-29).
- It is a pledge of a good conscience toward God (1 Peter 3:21).
- Most of all, it is a symbol of our death and burial. Joining Jesus in His death, we are resurrected to a new life in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:1-4, Colossians 2:9-12, Galatians 2:20). It identifies us with Him in death to the old life and into a new life with God, where we are children of God, born of the Spirit.

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

The New Testament makes it clear that those who were baptized were believers *before* they were immersed. It was only after they believed that they were baptized.

Believers did not wait until they were mature enough to prove their commitment to Jesus Christ by years of faithful service. Their baptism was a "badge of witness" that they chose to put on very shortly after conversion. It was one of the earliest steps of obedience taken by believers in the New Testament. See the examples of the Philippian jailer, Lydia, Saul/Paul and the Ethiopian eunuch, as found in Acts.

There are many words used in the Bible to describe a usage of water:

Luou meaning to wash or bathe the whole body as found in John 13:10

Nipto meaning to wash a particular part of the body as found in Matthew 6:16-17

Ex-echo meaning to pour out as found in Acts 2:17-18

Katapontizo meaning to plunge or drown as in Matthew 18:6

Rhantizo which means to sprinkle as in Hebrews 9:19

Brecho meaning to moisten or make lightly wet as in Luke 7:38

However, even though all these words were available, none were used when describing baptism. The word that is used is *Baptizo* which means to immerse. It comes from the word *Bapto* which means to dip under.

In wanting to be true to the Word as much as we can, we choose to use immersion for baptism rather than any other method. Being baptized by immersion adheres to the tradition, symbolism and meaning of the word.

SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED WHEN...

Someone else is pressuring me to?	Y	N
My friend did it?	Y	N
It looks like fun?	Y	N
I think that it will help save me?	Y	N
I don't believe baptism is necessary to be a follower of Jesus	Y	N
I was baptized as an infant	Y	N
I was baptized as a believer by another method	Y	N
Even though I do believe in Jesus, I'm not ready	Y	N
I'm not worthy	Y	N
I'm too old or too young	Y	N
I'm scared of going under the water	Y	N
I'm scared of receiving it during a Sunday Service	Y	N
I'm not yet a follower of Jesus Christ	Y	N

NOTES

∞ BELONGING ∞

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

We are saved as individuals, but called to grow as disciples in the community of the family and the church.

- *Love*: “A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34).
- *Devotion and Honour*: “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves” (Romans 12:10).
- *No finger pointing*: “Let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way” (Romans 14:13).
- *Acceptance*: “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God” (Romans 15:7).
- *Patience*: “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2).
- *Forgiveness*: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).
- *Forbearance*: “Bear with one another and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgives you” (Colossians 3:13).

Encouragement: “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today...” (Hebrews 3:13).

- *Harmony:* “Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble” (1 Peter 3:8)
- *Discipline:* “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the fault. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If that person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. If the church decides you are right, but the other person won’t accept it, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector” (Matthew 18:15-17).

The new believers became devoted to one lifestyle:

- *Apostles’ teaching:* for us, this would be the Bible.
- *Fellowship:* communion of sharing with the idea of unity in interest, heart and purpose.
- *Breaking of Bread:* sharing meals which can be indicative of living out our faith together, in each other’s homes and lives.
- *Prayer:* living in relationship with God.

In the end, there is one outcome: “And THE LORD added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)

Which of the previous passages would you choose as being particularly important to you and why?

Which do you find the hardest to live up to and why?

NOTES

BRAMALEA BAPTIST CHURCH

Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:43-47)

A BRIEF HISTORY

With much faith, sacrifice, and change:

- 1963 – A group of families dreamed of starting a church in Bramalea. These included the families of Kenneth and Margaret Densmore, Paul Topping, Rev. Colin Butcher, Dick Fraser and Bernard Saunders.
- 1964 – They met at Balmoral Public School with Gord McCracken as their pastor.
- 1965 – Pastor Bill Hiltz was called as the first full-time pastor, with a formal membership of 33 people, anticipating their first church building at 75 Autumn Blvd.
- 1969 – Pastor Stu Silvester invited the congregation to start praying for the property at 9050 Dixie Rd., believing in Joshua 1:3. “I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses”.
- 1972 – Hired Eileen Morley as our Minister of Education.
- 1974 – The cornerstone for the current building was laid, with the heart that the people of Bramalea would hear of Jesus.
- 1984 – A new building project was started, tripling the seating capacity. The congregation knew it wasn't about the number of people in the pews, however, but rather about spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This included having a bus ministry, door-to-door visits (covering every home in Bramalea twice!), camping trips and outdoor concerts.
- 1992 – Pastor Justin Dennison came and renewed the challenge to reach the community with meaningful friendships that shared Christ. This included caring for one another, joining small groups and reaching out to their neighbours. The church grew.
- 2001 – Pastor Ian Campbell became the Senior Pastor with a new vision of people being passionate for God, passionate for each other and passionate for our neighbours.
- 2009 – Dr. Tom Finch was called as Lead Pastor to move the church forward in Biblical ways. He responded to God's call in May 2011 to ministry in Phoenix.

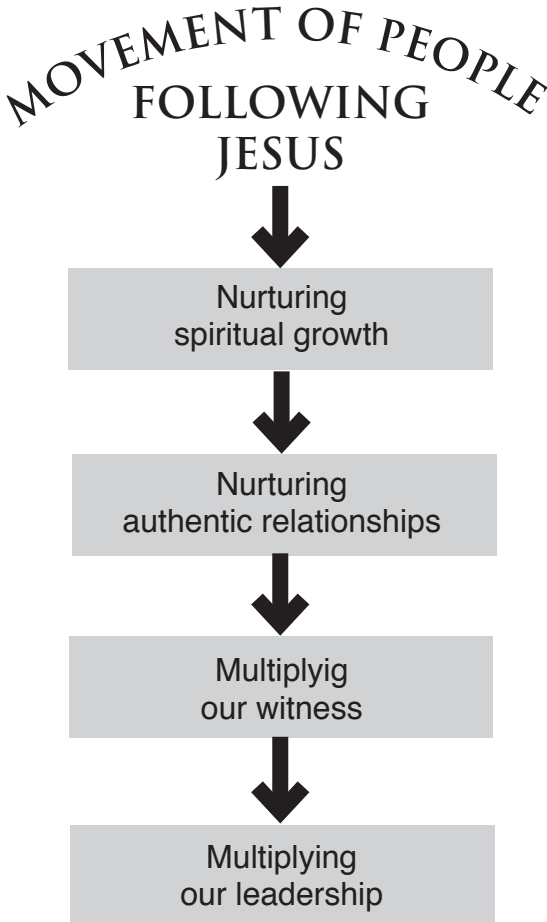
OUR MISSION

We are a movement of people following Jesus so that others are drawn to follow Him too.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Depending on God in prayer, worship and obedience to the Holy Bible.
- Cultivating authentic relationships across our diverse communities:
- Reaching into the world by multiplying followers of Jesus Christ:
- Recognizing, raising up and releasing spirit-led servant leaders to plant new churches

An illustration of our Vision and Core Values:



COMMUNITY LIFE

In life we all have the drive to be accepted, to seek good guidance, encouragement and support. We believe that these can be best achieved through community. As individuals, authentic community stimulates and challenges us in our daily lives. At Bramalea Baptist Church we have over 30 small groups that are designed to build this community experience.

Small groups give us the opportunity to be accountable and involved in the Church, with family and friends, in our neighbourhoods and places of employment. At Bramalea Baptist Church, community strengthens us with common experiences and motivates us as we see lives changed.

We encourage you to get involved in a Cell Group at Bramalea Baptist Church as one of the best ways to develop as a follower of Jesus.

FAMILY LIFE

Family Life is about learning to follow Jesus while in relationships with family and friends so that those same people are drawn to follow Him too.

Through specific recovery programs, a developing discipleship track and various ministries for individuals, families and relationships, we will equip, encourage, and empower you towards this goal.

SUPPORT

Even though God is good, sometimes unforeseen bad things happen. Divorce, unhealthy habits, death, hang-ups and hurts all occur in our lives. It certainly isn't easy to get through them, much less get through them well.

Whether you believe in Jesus or not, our various recovery programs run by caring leaders and assistants are here to help.

LEARNING

Learning to follow Jesus is not unlike tracking the physical growth of our youth. As we grow, we need to keep growing, but have markers to check where we are in that growth.

BBClasses are designed to address this need. BBClasses are for adult learning, growth and development. The goal of BBClasses is to build into lives a strong Christian foundation, catalyze spiritual growth, and equip people for ministry through quality instruction.

MISSIONS

BBC exists for mission. It is the vital part of the church and our reason for existing. The Great Commission (Matthew 28.19, 20) makes it clear that every believer, and therefore the whole church, has been called to make disciples of all nations. The missionary calling is the concern of the whole church. It is our vision that Bramalea Baptist Church will become a church that has a heart for God and a heart for people both near and far.

We are active in worship, fellowship and stewardship, but the central purpose of these elements is MISSION, which is to worship Jesus, to make Him known and to make disciples who also worship our God.

At BBC we also promote, plan for, and partner with others for the fulfillment of the Great Commission by “going and making disciples” and the planting, propagating and perfecting of congregations around the world. BBC partners with supports prayerfully and financially, over 30 missionaries serving around the world.

WORSHIP LIFE

We desire to lead people into a fuller and deeper understanding and expression of worship. We believe that all people are created for one primary purpose, to worship God.

Jesus said, *“True worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks”* John 4:23.

Simply put, worship means giving worth to something or someone. If someone is valuable to us we show it. We spend time with them. We lend a hand when they need it. We give them gifts. That’s what Christian worship is all about - valuing a God who cares, expressing our gratitude for Christ’s selfless life and all that he has done for us, and offering ourselves to live the same way.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH



We believe that the Bible is God speaking in man's language and in the original writings is exactly as He gave it, word for word without any error whatsoever. It has been preserved by God to be the authoritative standard for every age and every life.¹

We believe that God exists in three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that these three are eternal and are one. We also believe that God is the sole Creator of the universe.²

We believe that Jesus Christ in the flesh was both God and man, that he was born of a virgin and that He lived a sinless life, in which He taught and did mighty works and signs exactly as revealed in the four gospels. We believe that He was crucified, dying as a penalty for our sins and was bodily raised from the dead on the third day as the Scriptures declare. Later, He ascended to heaven where He is Head of the Church and intercedes for believers. From there He will come again personally and bodily and visibly to this earth to set up an earthly kingdom, afterward to reign forever as King in His universe.³

We believe that all are sinners and are guilty before God, and as such are worthy of both physical and spiritual death.⁴

We believe that since in His death the Lord Jesus Christ satisfied all the demands of God's law, redeeming mankind by shedding His blood and assuming our curse, men and women can have a just standing before God. That is, they can become true Christians. The single basis for this standing is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and an individual's personal faith in Him.⁵

We believe that salvation with its forgiveness of sins includes the receiving of a new nature and the assurance of eternal life. It is entirely apart from good works such as baptism or church membership, but is purely by God's grace.⁶

We believe that a true believer cannot ever forfeit his standing with God. However, sin may interrupt the joy of his fellowship with God and bring the discipline of a loving Heavenly Father. ⁷

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, that He is God and has all the attributes of God. We also believe that He lives in all believers and that by His ministry every Christian is made to be part of God's eternal family, is marked off as truly God's possession, and is specifically given unique gifts for Christian service. The Holy Spirit also fills or empowers the believer, in response to confession of sin and yielding, and then He teaches and guides the believer for effective Christian service. ⁸

We believe that all genuine believers are part of the true Church, which in Scripture is referred to as the body of Christ, and that a local church is intended to be a visible expression of this body. ⁹

We believe that Satan is a personality, the archenemy of God and our defeated foe. ¹⁰

We believe that those who refuse the offer of God's gracious gift of salvation are doomed to suffer eternal conscious separation from Him. ¹¹

We believe that Christians who die depart to be with Christ. Someday Jesus will come again to take away His living people from the earth. Then, all Christians will have glorified bodies similar to His resurrected body and share in His glory. They will reign with Him. ¹¹

FOOTNOTES: Scripture References

1. II Tim 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21
2. Matt. 3:16, 17, 28:19, 20; II Cor. 13:14; Jude 20, 21;
3. Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:35; Gal. 4:4; Matt. 28:1-7; Acts 1:8-11; Heb. 4:14-16; Heb. 9:22; Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:13-18; II Thes. 2:1-13
4. Rom 3:23, 6:23
5. John 3:3, 5, 7, 16-18; I John 5:4-6; John 1:12-13, 3:3-16; Eph. 2:8, 9
6. Eph. 2:8, 9.
7. John 1:27-29; Rom. 8:35-39; I Peter 1:5
8. Eph. 1:13-14; John 14:15-27; 16:5-15; 1 Cor. 12:1-11
9. Eph. 1:22-23; I Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:41-47; Eph. 3:10; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13:1-5;
10. Luke 4:1-13; Gen. 3:1-5; Rev. 20:9-10
11. Rev. 21:1-8; Matt. 25-31; Luke 16:19-31; 1 Thess. 4:13-18

LEADERSHIP ELDERS

General Authority

The Elders shall have the authority to govern the spiritual affairs of the Church and in particular:

- (a) to exercise overall responsibility for Membership care
- (b) to support the Lead Pastor to provide spiritual leadership for the Church
- (c) to oversee the discipline of Members for the purpose of reconciliation whenever possible
- (d) to ensure that all employed personnel and lay leaders of the Church are accountable to the Lead Pastor and are followers of the Christian faith, confessing Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord and that they adhere and are subject to the authority of the Church pursuant to the Church Constitution

See 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Taus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4 for a Biblical outline of the role and qualifications for leaders in the church

LEADERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

General Authority

The Board of Directors are responsible for the temporal, legal and financial affairs of the Church.

This includes such things as - budgeting, the flow and control of money, and the hiring of staff.

LEADERSHIP PASTORAL TEAM

Lead Pastor

The Lead Pastor shall be the lead spiritual overseer of the Church with the responsibility for assisting the Church in fulfilling its mission, vision and values. He shall be deemed to be a Member of the Church, an Elder of the Church and an ex-officio member (without the right to vote) of every committee of the Church, save and except the Board of Directors, by virtue of his appointment as Lead Pastor.

The Lead Pastor shall be responsible for the development and promotion of the Church's mission, vision, and values. He is accountable for the effective leadership and ministry of the Pastoral Team; and such duties as are assigned to him from time to time by the Elders.

Pastoral Team Members

The Board of Directors may appoint Pastoral Team Members, on the recommendation of the Lead Pastor, to assist the Lead Pastor in ministry needs of the Church. The Pastoral Team Members shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the Lead Pastor.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

Qualification for Membership

Members shall:

- a) have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and salvation through faith in Him alone
- b) have been baptized by immersion as a confession of their faith in Christ
- c) demonstrate and confess a life-style appropriate for a Christian in conformity to Biblical standards
- d) have subscribed in writing to the entire Church Constitution; and
- e) have been admitted into Membership in accordance with the Church Constitution

Application Process

Applicants may apply to become Members of the Church on the basis of conversion and baptism or a letter of recommendation from another church of like faith and practice or Christian experience, subject to the procedure set forth in this paragraph. Applicants for membership will be required to complete an application form. Applicants for membership shall be received into the church after first being interviewed by a member of the Pastoral Team, an Elder and/or a person or persons designated by the Elders. After the applicant's name has been published in the Let's Talk, for membership comments, the applicant may be admitted into the Membership by the Elders and welcomed at a public worship service or at a time arranged.

Rights of Membership

Every Member shall have the privilege of:

- a) attending all public worship services of the Church
- b) participating in the ministries of the Church
- c) casting a single vote in person at any Meeting of Members on any issue properly before such meeting
- d) speaking at and participating at any Meeting of Members

Duties of Membership

Every member shall have the duty to:

- a) minister to one another's needs as part of the Body of Christ
- b) participate in Church activities and ministries as the Lord directs and personal circumstances permit

- c) financially support the work of the Church as the Lord directs and personal circumstances permit
- d) respect and submit to the spiritual authority and procedures of the Church as expressed in the Church Constitution
- e) attend all Meetings of Members

Transferability

Membership in the Church is not transferable. Church Members are encouraged to identify with another church of like faith and practice when they move from the area. A letter of recommendation shall be sent by the Church Elders upon request of a Member. Upon receiving such a request from a Member, the membership of such person in the Church shall be terminated and the name of such person shall be removed from the Membership Register.

Withdrawal from Membership

A Member may withdraw at any time as a Member of the Church. In the event that such Member is withdrawing in order to attend another church, such Member may request the Elders to provide a letter of recommendation as set out in the constitution.

Absence

In the event that a Member is absent from the Church for an extended period without a reasonable explanation, the Elders may pass a Resolution limiting the rights and duties of such Member as the Elders see fit in their sole discretion. The Elders may thereafter initiate the removal of the name of such Member from the Membership Register.

Discipline

All believers are subject to the authority of Christ, the Sole and Supreme Law-Giver and head of the Church. The Church, through its Elders, reserves the right to restrict ministry involvement, exclude or suspend from Membership those Members who do not fulfill the requirements of this Constitution or any by-law established herein or subsequently or who in the opinion of the Elders are in contravention of the moral, ethical or spiritual expectations of evangelical Christianity as provided for in 2 Thessalonians 3:6, Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 or Romans 12:1-2.

PROCESS

BAPTISM

- Attend Baptism and Membership Classes.
- Classes regularly scheduled every other month.
- Baptisms are regularly scheduled for the first Sunday every other month.
- Membership is the natural next step following Baptism.

MEMBERSHIP

- If you have not been baptized, attend Baptism and Membership Classes to prepare for Baptism (first step before becoming a member).
- If you have already been baptized, attend Membership Class (regularly scheduled every other month).
- Fill out application form and return it to the church office.
- Interview by one of our elders.
- Name printed in bulletin.
- Welcomed into membership at a Sunday morning service.