



# Membership

*At First Baptist Church being a part of our church family is very important. What does being a part of a church family mean? What does it say? How does it apply to me?*

## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE:**

**1. Membership** says, "**I belong here,**" and God says that believers belong together. Hebrews 10:23-25 (NKJV) says, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

You sense that God wants you here with the people of the First Baptist Church at this time in your Christian life and you want to make a public declaration that you are committed to God's work through this church.

**2. Membership** says, "**We share the same ministry goals**" and God says that believers are to be committed to one another for the sake of spiritual impact. Ephesians 4:16 (NIV) says, "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." You believe that Jesus has a work to do in Prince George, our nation and around the world and you're willing to join with others to see that it gets done.

**3. Membership** says, "**I accept responsibility for a group of fellow believers in the family of God**" and that's God's plan as well. Galatians 6: 1-2 and v.10 (NIV) says, "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch

yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

You want to be part of a caring network of people, sharing one another's joys and sorrows and helping one another grow through worship, Bible study and fellowship.

**4. Membership** says, **"I am accountable to mature brothers and sisters in Christ for my walk with God"** and God warns against spiritual autonomy. Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV) says, "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you." You don't want to go it alone in standing for Jesus Christ and want to receive the guidance, equipping and assistance necessary to remain on target.

**5. Membership** says, **"I accept responsibility for how things are done here"** and God says that's how it should be. 1 Corinthians 12:15-20 (NIV) says, "If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact, God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body."

Members elect our Executive Committee, as well as call pastors to serve as our spiritual leaders. Every member has a say in shaping our church's direction and ministry goals.

**6. Membership keeps us legal.** 1 Peter 2:13-17 (NIV) says, "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king."

The Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada recognize churches if they have a credible membership, constitution and by-laws. Obedience to these laws affirms that we are responsible citizens with a desire to serve.

*Thank you for prayerfully considering membership in First Baptist Church.*

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES:**

- Please read the Constitution & Bylaws and Covenant of First Baptist Church.
- Complete a Church Membership Application Form and hand into the church office or give to our pastors.
- After completion you will be contacted by our Elders or Lead Pastor.

**If you have any questions please contact the church office. Thank you**

# **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, PRINCE GEORGE**

## **Our Church Covenant**

- I believe that God exists and that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- I believe that God was in Christ, reconciling me to Himself on the Cross. I have by faith claimed Jesus Christ as my own Lord and Saviour.
- I recognize that the church is a body of believers in Jesus Christ who have been redeemed by His blood, made new creatures by the Holy Spirit, and have been baptized in the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit - and who are gathered together for the worship of God, for spiritual growth, the service of our city and nation and the sharing of the gospel to the world.
- I desire to join the local, visible expression of the Body of Christ known as "First Baptist Church, Prince George" and I will endeavor, by God's grace, to assume responsibility and serve the ministries of the church.
- I joyously accept my role as a minister of Christ, as a disciple in training and as an active participant in God's redeeming grace.
- I commit myself, regardless of time, energy and finances, to continued spiritual growth and to ongoing training for effective ministry.
- I believe God is the total owner of my life and resources. I give God the throne in relation to all aspects of my life. In response to God's great goodness and to the needs of a fallen world, I purpose to give generously, cheerfully and regularly to the Lord's work at First Baptist Church, Prince George.
- I will seek to reflect Jesus Christ in all relationships, family, friends, community, with other nations, nationalities and cultures.
- I will seek to bring every aspect of my life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- I subscribe to the Constitution and Bylaws of First Baptist Church.
- If and when I move from this place I will join another expression of the Christian Church.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Elder: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_