



# Belonging: *Through Personal Involvement*

**The Decision is Up to You!**

## MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Make a conscious commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life, committing yourself to live in fellowship with Him seeking His will for your life each day.
- Receive baptism by immersion in a church of like faith and order as a symbol of your conscious commitment to Christ.

We acknowledge that other traditions of faith who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are our brothers and sisters in Christ. We affirm and are grateful for our common relationships in Jesus Christ. We recognize that some traditions of faith have different practices and beliefs about the meaning of baptism. We respect the baptismal beliefs of other faith traditions, and their own commitment to baptism.

As Baptists we have our own tradition and distinctive approach to baptism. Our practice of believer's baptism by immersion is not based on arrogance or an attitude of superiority. Our practice of baptism represents a common experience that we all share as Baptists, and our identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We baptize by immersion because the word "baptize" as found in the New Testament means to dip or plunge. We baptize by immersion because it offers a powerful portrait of dying and rising in Christ. Baptism by immersion captures the depth of being buried with Christ, and raised up to walk in the newness of life.

- Be in agreement with the beliefs, values, mission, objectives, and commitments of this church.

## **HOW YOU CAN JOIN FIRST BAPTIST**

- There are two ways to join First Baptist. First, you may join by making a public decision at the end of a worship service. Simply come to the front of the sanctuary during the “invitation time.” The pastor or a minister will discuss your decision with you. A second way is to contact the pastor or another minister to discuss your decision at a time other than the worship service.

## **METHODS OF JOINING**

1. **New believers** may present themselves as making their profession of faith. They will then be baptized as testimony of their conversion experience.
2. New members coming from other Baptist churches may join by letter of membership from the other church.
3. New members may come by statement of their faith (1) if the person is or was a member of a church of like faith and order and the person’s records are not available for any reasonable cause or (2) if one is a member of another denomination that has a similar faith and practices immersion according to the scriptural ordinance of baptism by immersion.
4. Persons in need of a church home, but not desiring to become voting members of the church may come as watchcare members.

## **YOU WILL “OFFICIALLY” BECOME A MEMBER...**

Upon vote by the church at the first quarterly church conference, following your presentation to the church and, if necessary, your baptism.