

Kempton Park Baptist Church

Questions and Requirements for New Members



We consider church membership as a serious matter. The church is not a man-made institution, but it was called into being by God Himself (Matt. 16:18, 1Cor. 1:2, Acts 20:28). Only believers may become members of the local body of Christ. According to Acts 2:41 those who received the Word of God into their hearts were baptised, and added to the church.

The Bible requires every believer to be part of a local church. It is not without reason that every New Testament letter was written to a local church, her pastors, or one of her members. New Testament commands like bear one another's burdens, pray for one another, forgive each other, exhort one another can only be obeyed effectively if you are part of a local church. The Biblical command to discipline unrepentant members (Matt. 18:15-17), to obey your spiritual leaders (Heb. 13:17), to celebrate the Lord's Supper with other believers (1Kor. 11:17-34) all imply church membership. How can someone obey these commands properly if he is not part of a local church? How can we remove unrepentant members from the church if they were never part of it to

begin with? To which leaders must we submit if we are not part of a local church? How can you partake of the Lord's Supper with other believers if you never meet with them? It is clear that the early church knew who was part of the local body of believers (Acts 2:41, 4:4, 5:13-14, Rom. 16:1).

Should you want to become a member of our church, we require you to attend our worship services for a few months. In this way you will get to know the church, and the people will get to know you. During this time we will look for evidences of salvation in your life. You also get to 'check out' the church before you join as a member. If you still wish to join after the trial period we require the following from you:

- Basic information like your name, residential address, birthday, contact number, etc.
- A personal testimony of your conversion.
- Information about involvement and membership in previous churches.
- Understand and accept your responsibilities as a member of this church.
- Sign the church's statement of faith.
- Have an interview with the elders.
- Attend a five-week membership course.
- Be baptised as a believer.
- Be recognised and accepted as a church member by the congregation.

BASIC INFORMATION

Name:

Residential address:

Cellphone number:

Email address:

Birthday:

Wedding anniversary:

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

1. Are you sure that you are saved? Why or why not?

2. Why do you think you will go to heaven—what are you relying on?

3. What is the gospel—how do you understand it?

4. What is a Christian?

5. Please share your thoughts on Jesus Christ: who is He, and why is He important in your life?

6. Do your conscience, the fruit of your life, and others who know you well testify that you are truly saved?

7. Are you currently living in unrepentant sin such as fornication, drunkenness, homosexuality, addictions, dishonest business practises, or something of the sort? If necessary, please explain.

8. Explain how you became a Christian. What was your life like before you were saved? How did things change since you became a Christian?

PREVIOUS CONGREGATION

1. Were you a member of another church in the past? Where and when?

2. Why did you leave the other church?

3. Are you still a member of the other church?
4. Did you leave the other church on good terms?
5. Has a church ever put you under church discipline? If so, explain.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS

1. Pray and work to protect the peace and spiritual unity of the church (Eph. 4:2-6).
2. Commit yourself to the preaching of God’s Word, the fellowship of believers, the Lord’s Supper, and corporate prayer (Acts 2:42).
3. Do not neglect the gathering of God’s people but use every opportunity to grow, and to build up your fellow believers in Christ (Heb. 10:24-25).
4. Be involved in the congregation; use your gift to serve others, and to build up the church (1Cor. 12:7, Eph. 4:12).
5. Share the gospel with unbelievers in word and deed (Matt. 28:19, Acts 8:4, 1Pet. 3:15).
6. Obey your leaders as they teach and lead you in God’s truth (1Thess. 5:12-13, Heb. 13:17).
7. Live a holy life, and strive to obey God’s Word (John 14:15, 1Pet. 1:15-16).
8. Subject yourself to the discipline of the church, and be willing to help any brother or sister who is overtaken by sin (Matt. 18:15-17, Gal. 6:1-2, Heb. 3:13).
9. Contribute regularly and with a joyful heart to support the church as we care for poor believers and spread the good news to all the nations (1Cor. 9:14, 16:1-2, 2Cor. 9:7).

_____ Name

_____ Signature

_____ Date

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(See attachment)

1. Do you disagree with any point in the statement of faith? If so, what do you disagree with and why?

2. If you disagree on any point which does not affect a person’s salvation (eg. the doctrine of election), will you agree to the following: do not oppose the leadership, do not promote your view and try to win support, do not cause division among the members?

BELIEVERS’ BAPTISM

1. Have you been baptised as a believer?

2. Is believers' baptism a hindrance to your becoming a member of this church?
3. If you disagree with believers' baptism, what is it that bothers you?
4. Is there anything that hinders you from being baptised as a believer?
5. Have you ever done a diligent study of what the Bible teaches on baptism? If so, what was your conclusion?
6. If believers' baptism stand between you and church membership, are you willing to talk to the elders about it?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE CHURCH

Two weeks before we receive people into membership their names are announced at a Sunday worship service. If there are no valid objections, you will be received into membership during a Lord's Day service.

STATEMENT OF FAITH*

1. The 66 books of the Bible (the Old- and New Testaments) are verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is infallible and without error.¹ It is sufficient and the only authority in matters of faith and life.² It is the final and complete revelation of God.³ The first eleven chapters of Genesis should be interpreted literally.⁴ We reject evolution and any interpretation which says the days of Genesis 1 must be interpreted as long periods of time.⁵
2. From all eternity God has existed as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—three Persons, yet only one God.⁶ The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit fulfill different roles, but are equal in every way.⁷
3. Before the foundation of the world the Father elected us in his Son.⁸ He did not choose us because of some foreseen faith or our good works. He chose us on the basis of his sovereign choice, and grace.⁹
4. By the power of the Holy Spirit the Son of God was born of the virgin Mary. Jesus is truly God and truly man.¹⁰ He lived a sinless life.¹¹ He died as our substitute to atone for our sins.¹² He was buried,

¹ Psalm 19:8, 2Timothy 3:16

² 2Timothy 3:17, 2Peter 1:3

³ Hebrews 1:1, Revelation 22:18-19

⁴ Matthew 19:4-5, 23:35, 24:37-39, Romans 5:12-21, 2Corinthians 11:3, 1Timothy 2:13-14, Hebrews 11:4-7, 1Peter 3:20, 2Peter 2:5, 3:5-6, 1John 3:12, Jude 11, 14-15

⁵ Genesis 1:5, 8, 14, Exodus 20:8-11

⁶ Genesis 1:26, Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19, John 1:1-3, Ephesians 1:3-14, 4:4-6, Hebrews 9:14

⁷ Psalm 139:7, John 5:23, Acts 5:3-4, Ephesians 1:3-14, Hebrews 1:3, 1Peter 1:2

⁸ Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:4-5, 1Peter 1:2

⁹ Romans 9:10-23, 11:5-6

¹⁰ Luke 1:34-35, John 1:1-3, 14, 8:58, Philippians 2:6-8, Colossians 1:19, 2:9

¹¹ Hebrews 4:15, 1Peter 2:22

¹² Isaiah 53, Romans 3:25, Galatians 3:13, 1Peter 3:18

and rose bodily from the grave on the third day.¹³ He ascended bodily into heaven where He intercedes for us as our Advocate and our High Priest.¹⁴

5. The Holy Spirit is God and not merely a supernatural power.¹⁵ The Father and the Son sent the Spirit into the world to convict people of sin, righteousness, and judgment.¹⁶ The Holy Spirit regenerates, indwells, sanctifies, comforts, and seals God's children unto eternal life.¹⁷

6. All people are born with a sinful nature, and are sinners by their own choice.¹⁸ In order for a person to be saved from God's eternal judgment he must believe the historical facts of Jesus' Person, life, death, burial, and resurrection. He must repent of his sin, and trust in Christ alone to forgive him.¹⁹ Saving faith will always lead to a life of good works.²⁰

7. Those who receive Christ as their Lord and Saviour will enjoy God's presence forever in heaven and then on the new earth.²¹ Those who reject Christ will be separated from God and suffer the eternal consequences of his wrath in hell.²² Both heaven and hell are literal and eternal.²³

8. Jesus instituted two sacraments, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper.²⁴ Both sacraments may only be administered to believers.²⁵ Through baptism or immersion a believer identifies himself with Christ in his burial and resurrection.²⁶ By partaking of the Lord's Supper we remember Jesus' death for sinners on the cross of Calvary.²⁷

9. The church consists of people who have been born again, and openly confess this through believers' baptism by immersion.²⁸ The church is the body of Christ with Him as their Head.²⁹ The church exists to worship God,³⁰ to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ through the sacraments,³¹ to equip the saints for the work of ministry through the preaching of God's Word,³² to build up the body of Christ,³³ to preach the gospel to all nations.³⁴ Every local church is independent and interdependent on other local churches.³⁵ The church and the government of the land have been instituted by God to fulfill different functions; therefore they should not interfere in one another's sphere of influence.³⁶

¹³ Matthew 28, Luke 24, John 20, 1Corinthians 15:1-11

¹⁴ Acts 1:9-11, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, 1John 2:1

¹⁵ John 14:26, Ephesians 4:30

¹⁶ John 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:7-11, Acts 2:33

¹⁷ John 3:5, Titus 3:5, John 14:16-17, Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30

¹⁸ Psalm 51:7, 58:4, Romans 5:12

¹⁹ Mark 1:15, 1Corinthians 15:1-4, James 2:19, Ephesians 2:8-9

²⁰ Ephesians 2:8-10, James 2:14-26

²¹ Matthew 25:34, John 6:39-40, 14:1-3, Revelation 21:3-4

²² Matthew 25:41, 1Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 14:9-11, 20:15, 21:8

²³ Matthew 25:46, Mark 9:47-48, Luke 16:19-31, John 14:2-3, Jude 7, Revelation 21-22, 14:9-11

²⁴ Matthew 26:26-29, 28:19

²⁵ Matthew 28:19, Romans 6:3-4, 1Corinthians 11:17-34, Colossians 2:11-12

²⁶ Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:11-12

²⁷ 1Corinthians 11:23-26

²⁸ Acts 2:38-41

²⁹ Ephesians 1:22-23

³⁰ John 4:23-24

³¹ See references at footnote 24-27.

³² Ephesians 4:11-12

³³ 1Corinthians 14:12, Ephesians 4:12

³⁴ Matthew 28:18-20

³⁵ 1Corinthians 1:2, Galatians 1:2

³⁶ Acts 4:18-20, Romans 13:1-7, 1Timothy 2:1-2

10. Every believer is a priest who has direct access to God.³⁷ Christ is the only Mediator between God and man.³⁸

11. Every believer has been sealed with the Holy Spirit, and will be kept to the end by the power of God in Christ.³⁹ Because of this nothing can separate us from God's love, and no true believer can lose his salvation.⁴⁰

12. Christ is the heir of all things.⁴¹ He rules over creation.⁴² According to his promise He will return to the earth personally and visibly.⁴³ At his coming believers and unbelievers who died will be raised from their graves.⁴⁴ According to their works God will judge unbelievers and give them the due penalty for their sin.⁴⁵ Believers will be judged, not to determine their eternal destiny, but to give them the due reward for their service.⁴⁶ There are several views on the end times. As long as a person believes in a literal future coming of Christ, the resurrection of believers and unbelievers, the final judgment, a literal and eternal heaven and hell, it unnecessary to cause division in the church over our view of the end.

** See the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith for a fuller treatment of what we believe and teach.*

³⁷ Hebrews 4:16, 10:19-22, 1Peter 2:5, 9

³⁸ John 14:6, 1Timothy 2:5

³⁹ Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, 1Peter 1:4-5

⁴⁰ Romans 8:28-30, 38-39, John 6:37-40, 10:28-29

⁴¹ Hebrews 1:2

⁴² Hebrews 1, Revelation 4-5

⁴³ 1Thessalonians 4:16

⁴⁴ Daniel 12:2, John 5:28-29, Revelation 20:12-13

⁴⁵ Matthew 16:27, 25:41, 46, Romans 2:6-11, Revelation 20:12-13

⁴⁶ John 5:24, Romans 2:6-11, 8:1, 1Corinthians 3:12-15, 4:5, 2Corinthians 5:10, Jude 24