

Membership Manual

Trinity Baptist Church

Section 1 – Qualifications

To qualify for membership in this church, a person must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration, who has been baptized by immersion, in obedience to Christ, following his or her regeneration, and who wholeheartedly believes in the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible. Each member must agree to subscribe and submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Constitution and By-Laws of Trinity Baptist Church. The Elders shall be responsible for determining each person's qualification for membership. In making this determination, they may rely on a person's profession of faith, or such other evidence, as the elders deem appropriate.

Section 2 – Admission of Members

1. Express a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior evidenced by a changed life and a growing desire for intimacy and holiness before God.
2. Offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and this Constitution and Bylaws, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord, Jesus Christ.
3. Have been baptized by immersion after profession of faith.
4. Attend and complete a Membership Class during which time they will, at a minimum, be made aware of the history, doctrine and governance of Trinity Baptist Church and opportunities for service, or if need be, meet with a Pastor or Elder over the same information.
5. Affirm the Church Constitution and By-Laws.
6. Meet with at least one Ministerial Staff or Elder to discuss the items above and any other issue a prospective member might need.
7. The Elder Council of Trinity Baptist Church shall have final authority in all matters of church governance, as set forth and described in the Bylaws.
8. An individual shall be considered a member when they have completed the above.

Section 3 – Responsibilities of Active Members

*The Elders and Ministerial Staff will review and determine (Active Member) status every 2 yrs. An effort to contact members who no longer attend on a regular basis will be administered by the Elder Council to determine the status of the member for reaffirmation of membership.

Noting that many expectations of membership are outlined in the Church By-Laws, let us be reminded in summary that members are expected to joyfully fulfill the following:

1. Be present during worship and prayer services.
2. Be present during Family Meetings.
3. Be in prayer for the leadership of the Church, one another, and brother and sisters around the world.
4. Exhibit love for all the body.
5. Be involved with ministry as individually gifted and impassioned.
6. Provide financially for the ministries of the Church through tithes and offerings.
7. Be watchful over and encourage one another toward holiness.

Section 4 – Duties and Privileges of Membership

In accord with the Constitution and By-laws, each member shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the church, consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received from God. Only those shall be entitled to serve in the ministries of the church who are members of this congregation; non-members may serve on an ad-hoc basis with the approval of the elder council.

Under Christ its members govern this congregation. Therefore, it is the privilege and responsibility of members 18 yrs. old and over to attend all members' meetings and affirm:

1. By congregational vote:
 - a. The election of officers.
 - b. Approval of the annual budget and expenditures outside of the budget.
 - c. Approval of any transactions regarding real property.
 - d. Matters submitted to the membership of the church, by the Elder Council.
2. By confirmation with opportunity to object with cause:
 - a. Approval of new Elders, Deacons and Professional Staff recommended by the Elder Council.
 - b. Approval of Pastor Search Team
 - c. Approval of Stewardship Team

Section 5– On Church Discipline

Any member consistently neglectful of his or her duties or guilty of conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of the church, shall be subject to the admonition of the elders and the discipline of the church, according to the instructions given in 1 Corinthians 5: 1-13, Matthew 18: 15–17 and the example of Scripture. Church discipline, then, should ordinarily be contemplated only after individual private admonition has failed.

Church discipline can include admonition by the elders, removal from office, and termination of membership or other disciplinary measures.

The purpose of such discipline should be for the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined;

For the instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them;

For the purity of the church as a whole;

For the good of our corporate witness to non–Christians; and

Supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character.

Section 6 – Termination of Membership

The Elder Council following the death or voluntary resignation or prolonged inactivity of any church member shall determine termination of membership. Membership also may be terminated as an act of church discipline by the elder council.