

New Beginnings Bible Fellowship Church Church Membership and Baptism

Thank you for your interest in joining our church. New Beginnings BFC is part of a larger family of churches called the Bible Fellowship Church. The BFC has its roots in the Mennonite movement, however not much about us could be called Mennonite today. Back in the mid 20th Century, the denomination made a decisive shift in doctrine that reflected the changes that were already happening among the various churches. We went from embracing anabaptist Mennonite doctrine to holding to central tenants of the Reformed faith. Today, the BFC continues to grow by planting churches, strengthening current churches, and reaching the world through missions.

Here are a number of distinctives in what we teach and how we practice:

- Expository Preaching
 - We believe God’s Word is central to all that we do. We preach from the Scriptures with focus on context, original meaning, practical application, and Gospel-centric. We believe the story of redemption in the Bible is all about Jesus, so we preach Christ in every message.
- Evangelism and Discipleship
 - We believe in preaching the gospel and helping people grow in their faith.
- The Doctrines of Grace
 - We believe the Scriptures clearly teach the doctrines that were codified during the Reformation era, though we recognize these teachings have always been with the church since the Apostles taught them.
 - We teach Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Particular Redemption, Irresistible Grace, and Perseverance of the Saints.
 - We also hold to the 5 “solas” of the Reformation, which in English are: The Scriptures Alone teach salvation, By Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, in Christ Alone, All to the Glory of God.
- Governance by Plurality of Elders
 - We are not a congregational church. Our members vote to elect Elders and Deacons, but the Elders are responsible for the ruling and leading of the Church.
- Baptism: Creedal Immersion (believer’s baptism)
- Church Membership
 - That’s why you’re reading this. We believe Church Membership is more than just joining a group; it is a covenant relationship. Therefore, we do not take it lightly.
- Church Discipline
 - The result of a strong belief in church membership. If we have covenanted together, we are accountable to one another. Church discipline is both formative and corrective. We practice formative discipline by our teaching and encouragement to be disciples who make disciples. We practice corrective discipline when sin is brought to light that harms the church body and/or the church’s witness to the world.

The Pastor, Elders, and Deacons must be in full agreement with the Articles of Faith and Principles of Order of the Bible Fellowship Church.

Church Members, though not held to full agreement, must be in sympathy with the documents and willing to submit to their teaching and not cause disunity with any disagreements.

Membership Process

1. Initial Application
2. For Baptism Candidates
 - a. Teaching time and interview with the Pastor
 - b. Baptism Supplemental Application
3. Membership Orientation Classes (Articles of Faith, Welcome to the BFC)
4. If necessary, additional sessions with the Pastor at his discretion
5. Interview with the Elders
6. Presentation to the Congregation for Approval
7. Right Hand of Fellowship

Important Considerations

If the process seems burdensome, please understand the responsibility the Elders have at maintaining the purity of the Church as they are led by the Great Shepherd who oversees His Church. As a result, certain considerations may necessitate further dialogue and delay your individual progress:

- If you are currently under discipline at another church.
- If you left a previous church under bad terms.
- Doctrinal convictions that will cause disunity within the church.
- Membership in a secretive oath-bound society.



NEW BEGINNINGS
Bible Fellowship Church

SAVED BY GRACE ALONE TO DO GOOD WORKS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

Application for Baptism and Church Membership

Please complete this application to the best of your ability. If you are unsure of a question, please contact Pastor Tim for clarification. The Elders of NBBFC are excited and grateful for your interest in following the Lord in committing to the local church.

Personal Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ E-Mail: _____

Marital Status (circle): **Married / Single / Divorced / Separated / Remarried / Widowed**

If married, what is your spouse's name? _____

Are you currently a member of another church? **Yes / No**

If yes, please give the name and location of the church: _____

Are you currently under corrective discipline from another church? **Yes / No**

Since coming to faith in Christ, have you been baptized by immersion as instructed in the Scriptures? **Yes / No**

If yes, where and when were you baptized? _____

Testimony and Responsibility

1. Can you testify that through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ you have experienced the forgiveness of your sins? **Yes / No**
2. Do you believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible Word of God and the sole authority for the way of salvation? **Yes / No**
3. Will you endeavor, by God's help, to be responsible for faithful attendance of public worship, participation in the Lord's Supper, daily reading of the Scripture, prayer, and giving? **Yes / No**
4. Are you willing to submit to the authority of the Elders of New Beginnings BFC? **Yes / No**
5. Are you willing to live in a manner consistent with the Faith and Order of the Bible Fellowship Church? **Yes / No**
6. Will you seek to glorify God by using your talents and spiritual gifts to serve Christ at NBBFC? **Yes / No**
7. Will you minister under the direction of the church leaders? **Yes / No**
8. Will you regularly pray for the Elders, Deacons, and other leaders of NBBFC? **Yes / No**
9. Will you demonstrate mutual care and concern for other members of this church? **Yes / No**

**If you answered "no" to any of the above questions, please explain on the last page of this application..*

Doctrine

1. Have you read the Articles of Faith of the Bible Fellowship Church? **Yes / No**
2. Are you in sympathy with the Articles of Faith? **Yes / No**
3. If you disagree with any of the articles, state the nature and degree of your disagreement on the last page of this application.

Biblical Principles for Living

1. Have you read the Biblical Principles for Living of the Bible Fellowship Church? **Yes / No**
2. Are you in sympathy with the Biblical Principles for Living? **Yes / No**
3. If you disagree with any of these statements, state the nature and degree of your disagreement on the last page of this application..

Discipline

1. Have you read the Book of Discipline of the Bible Fellowship Church? **Yes / No**
2. Are you willing to submit to the principles of discipline as outlined in the above? **Yes / No**
3. If you have reservations, please state them on the last page of this application.

Declarations on Societies and Lodges

1. Do you belong to a secret oath bound society or lodge? **Yes / No**
2. If yes, to which organization(s) do you belong? _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Church Office Use

Elder's Interview Scheduled for: _____

Baptism Scheduled (if applicable): _____

Admitted into membership: _____

Explanations Page (if needed)