



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Seth Brickley

New Member Information Packet

Welcome!

Thank you so much for your interest in church membership! Here at Eureka Baptist Church, we hold the matter of church membership in high regard. We are called to be disciples making disciples for God's glory, and we believe membership helps keep us accountable as we pursue that mission.

The global church has a blemished track record of permitting members to become observers. Being a member is more than being on a membership roll. We are committed to a biblical model that reflects God's heart for His church. Consider these words from Romans 12:

"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them." (Romans 12:3-6a)

At Eureka, we see membership as a mutual commitment — where each party acts responsibly toward the other. Members who enter into a covenant with their local church commit to a higher degree of responsibility and service. The pastor and elders commit to love, lead, teach, aid, provide counsel, care for, and pray for members.

Being a member of Eureka Baptist Church is really about being part of a committed community of faith. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way they collaborate together loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving the world around them.

Our desire is for each member, regardless of age, to be growing and serving in ministry. Membership is not just "another ritual" in the church. We do not want you to join Eureka Baptist and gradually disappear. Why the emphasis on "active" membership? We believe people grow when they are serving God. Serving God in the church is a rewarding experience. Personal and spiritual growth is enhanced when we serve each other "as unto the Lord."

If you have questions about church membership, the procedure, or the information in this packet, please contact me at: sbrick783@gmail.com or 651-226-4827.

Seth Brickley
Pastor

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Church Covenant

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, and on profession of our faith having been baptized in the Name of the Father, and Son, and the Holy Spirit; we do, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter in to covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry and expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel to our community, state, country, and throughout the world.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk in Christian obedience; to avoid all gossiping, backbiting, and excessive anger; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to show honor to one another; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to show hospitality; to rejoice with one another; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to always aim to live in harmony with one another; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay. (Rom 12:9-16, Eph 4:31-32)

And we moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

Church By-Laws

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” “Let all your things be done with love.”

1 Cor. 14:40; 16:14

Article I

Name

The name of the church shall be Eureka Baptist Church.

Article II

Purpose

The general purpose for which the corporation is formed, and the general nature of its business shall be:

- a. To minister to the spiritual welfare of its members, to the public generally and to any individual, whether member or not, who may attend any of the general or special public meetings or functions sponsored and conducted by this corporation, or to any person who at any time requests the help, advice, or assistance of this Church or any of its members, in spiritual matters.
- b. To sponsor, promote, maintain and conduct Evangelical Christian Services and such Missionary work as may be consistent with the purpose for which this Corporation is formed, and in harmony with the tenets of the Baptist Faith hereof, and to co-operate with such civic, social, educational, scientific, moral and benevolent work and projects as may be consistent with the work and purpose of this corporation.

Article III

Membership

Section 1. Membership in this church shall be restricted and limited to regenerated or born-again individuals who have received baptism by immersion and who give public assent to Baptist faith and practice.

Section 2. Candidates for baptism should be examined by the pastor and board of elders and give testimony before the same, giving their experience and Christian desires as to baptism and membership. Candidates will be required to affirm the central tenets of the Christian faith before the church prior to their baptism.

Section 3. Members of other Baptist churches may be received by personal examination of the board of elders who shall be satisfied that they meet membership requirements and will be recommended to the church to be voted in as members.

Section 4. Persons, having been baptized by New Testament baptism, may be received as candidates for membership after being examined by the pastor and the board of elders and affirming their Christian faith to the church.

Section 5. All candidates for baptism and church membership shall be received into the church by the three-fourths vote of the membership, at any stated, called or regular business meeting.

Article IV Duties of Members

“Bear ye one another’s burdens and fulfill the law of Christ.” Gal. 6:2

Section 1. It shall be the duty of members to seek growth in the knowledge of the Scriptures and in spirituality.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the members to honor, esteem and love their pastor; to pray for him and to respect his official authority. It shall be the duty of the membership to attend services for worship under the leadership of the pastor, and to support the church financially according to their ability in the proportion to their income and according as the Lord has prospered them.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of every member to foster and maintain brotherly love toward all other members in the church, and to seek to promote the spiritual welfare and happiness of each other.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the members to walk circumspectly in the world, and to deal honestly in worldly affairs with all men.

Section 5. Every member should upon removal to distant places pursue membership at a Baptist church near them.

Article V Church Discipline Matt. 18:15-17

Section 1. If a member of the church has in speech or conduct, offended another member, and if the offense is personal and unknown to others the offended member shall seek to settle the matter through private consideration with the offender. If a settlement is attained, the matter shall be dropped and not made public.

Section 2. If satisfaction is not attained as mentioned in Section 1, the offended member shall choose one, two, or three other members to go with him to the offender and again seek to settle their differences.

Section 3. If the attempt outlined in Section 2 is not successful, it shall be the offended member’s privilege to bring the matter before the church after first notifying the offender.

Section 4. Any member, whose conduct is under question, shall be given an opportunity to speak before the church in his own defense.

Section 5. If the member fails to give satisfaction to the church in regard to the matter of conduct, or if he refuses to come before the church when asked to do so, after due notification, he may be excluded from the church membership.

Section 6. Any member being absent from church services for a period of one month will be called upon by the pastor or elders, either or both, to determine the wellness of the member in question. If, during this communication, the member indicates that he or she will not be attending church services regularly (at least monthly) going forward for reasons other than part time relocation, illness (member or member's family), or out of area vocational responsibilities, then his or her membership in the church shall be dropped from the church roll.

Article VI

Officers of the Church

Section 1. Upon a pastor resigning, death, or the need for an additional pastor the elders/pastor (if there is at least one still on staff), shall conduct a search to present to the church. They shall call a minister of good reputation and of the Baptist faith, to be their pastor/pastors. The pastor must receive a three-fourths majority vote of all members present at the meeting called for the purpose of electing a pastor. The meeting for calling a pastor shall be announced on two successive Sundays before the meeting. If no regular services are being held, the meeting shall be announced two weeks in advance.

Section 2. Candidates for elders shall be nominated by the pastor and other elders. Election of elders shall be by a three-fourths vote of all members present at the next Quarterly or Annual meeting. Up to five qualified elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7) shall be elected to office, each one to serve a three-year term. Provided that qualified, replacement elders are available to serve, elders shall be required to take a one-year sabbatical after six years or two consecutive three-year terms. After the year of sabbatical, elders may resume service on the elder board. It shall be the duties of the elders to assist the pastor at the Communion Service, to help in pastoral duties, and to advise and counsel the pastor in spiritual matters that concern the church.

Section 3. Deacons shall be nominated by the elders and elected by the church to serve a term of one year and it shall be their duties to take care of the physical and logistical needs of the church. Specific duties of the deacons shall include managing the church property, administrating funds or other assistance to the needy, collecting and counting the offering, distributing bulletins, seating the congregation, and helping in variety of ways so that the elders are able to concentrate on teaching and shepherding the church.

Section 4. Deaconesses shall be nominated by the elders and elected by the church to serve a term of one year and it shall be their duties to care for the Communion service and to assist the pastor and the board of elders as necessary. Deaconesses are woman leaders in the church who serve the body in various ways. Roman 16:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:11

Section 5. At the Annual business meeting of the church, deacons, deaconesses, clerk, treasurer, and auditing committee shall be elected, and any assistants to any one of the offices which may be deemed necessary, by a three-fourths vote of the members present at the annual meeting.

- a. The clerk shall keep a careful record of members, and a record of all business of the church. The clerk shall also care for correspondence of the church and shall have the care of all church documents.
- b. The treasurer shall receive and care for all church money; pay all bills, such as salaries and other local expenditures which are approved by the trustees and he shall send mission money as directed by the church.
- c. The Facilities Team, under the leadership of the Deacons, shall be responsible for the repair and maintenance of all church property.
- d. Deacons shall be responsible for the seating of worshipers, especially visitors that come to worship with us. They shall receive the offering and see that the sanctuary is properly ventilated.
- e. The church board shall consist of pastor, elders, deacons, and deaconesses. This board shall serve in an advisory capacity upon all matters to be presented to the church and shall act upon any matter so instructed by the church. Stated meetings of this board shall be occur within 30 days in advance of the quarterly business meetings of the church.
- f. The board of elders and deacons may meet separately at any time deemed necessary by two board members of the respective boards.
- g. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the church.
- h. Any unexpired term of office shall be filled by a three-fourths vote of the members present at the next quarterly business meeting unless otherwise provided for in these By-laws.

Section 6. With regard to Pastors and Elders:

- a. Any Pastor or Elder confirmed to be sinning in a disqualifying manner (1 Timothy 3:1-7) shall be approached by the other shepherds. If the Pastor or Elder does not repent, he shall be publicly reprovved, and upon their recommendation his services may be terminated immediately by a three-fourths vote of a quorum of members at a meeting called for that purpose. The process shall be done based on the process laid out in Scripture (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Timothy 5:19; Titus 3:9-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-11).
- b. If a Pastor or Elder is not performing his duties, a meeting will be called where the other shepherds will meet with him. If after this meeting the neglect of duties continues, he will be removed from this office by a three-fourths vote of a quorum of members at a meeting called for that purpose.
- c. In the case of willful sin or neglect, a special meeting can be called by 25% of church members, as announced from the pulpit to the membership two weeks in advance, to discuss possible removal of Pastor or Elder if found to be leading the church in a disqualifying manner (1 Timothy 3:1-7, 2 Timothy 2:24-25a). A vote for removal would require three-fourths of a quorum of members.

Article VII
Meeting of the Church

Section 1. The annual meeting shall be held at the time of the first quarterly meeting of the year. In the case of unusual circumstances, the board is authorized to change this date to one most convenient to the church as a whole.

Section 2. Special Business meetings may be called by the request of 25% membership. Such meeting to be announced from pulpit on the Sunday preceding.

Section 3. Quarterly business meetings of the church shall be held the third Sunday of January, April, July and October following Sunday service.

Section 4. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless the majority (51%) of the voting members of the church are present.

Section 5. The Communion service shall be held on the first Lord's day of each month, as far as possible.

Section 6. Members of the church shall meet once a week, as far as possible, for prayer.

Section 7. Sunday School shall be held under the direction of the church each Sunday morning preceding the worship service. A service of worship shall be conducted on each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Bible study will be held when practicable.

Article VIII
Rules for Business Meetings

Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the parliamentary procedure at all business meetings of the church.

Section 2. The Head Deacon of the church shall preside at all meetings and in his absence, the Pastor or another Deacon shall preside.

Section 3. Each business meeting shall be opened with Scripture and Prayer.

Section 4. The order of business shall be as follows:

- a. Reading of minutes
- b. Receiving of new members
- c. Treasurer's Update
- d. Reports of Committees
- e. Unfinished business
- f. New business

Section 5. All questions shall be decided by a vote of three-fourths of all members present at any special or regular business meeting except as special provision has been made in the other articles in this Constitution.

Section 6. All members of the congregation shall be granted the privilege of the floor but voting privilege shall be extended only to those eighteen years of age and over.

Article IX

Messengers and Affiliations

Section 1. The church shall appoint or elect members to represent them at any meetings, convocations or assemblies when it deems it necessary or beneficial to the life of the church that it should be represented. It shall be the duty of these messengers to bring a report to the church from such gatherings and fulfill the proposes for which they were sent by the church.

Section 2. The church shall require its pastor to represent them at any meeting, convocations or assemblies when it deems it necessary or beneficial to the life of the church that it should be represented there. It shall be the duty of the pastor in such cases to bring a report to the church from such gatherings and fulfill the purpose for which he was sent by the church.

Section 3. The church is affiliated with the Conservative Baptists of Wisconsin and the Conservative Baptists of America.

Article X

License and Ordination

Section 1. Any member, who in the judgment of the church is called and qualified to preach the Gospel, may be given a license to preach, providing that three-fourths of all present at business meeting vote granting such license.

Section 2. If the church has in its midst a member, who in their good judgment should be ordained to the work of the Gospel ministry, they may call an ordination council of ministers and messengers from other Baptist churches. Council shall examine the candidate as to Christian experience, call and doctrine, and if in their judgment the candidate is qualified for ordination, the church shall proceed to ordain him to the Gospel ministry.

Article XI

Missionary Activities

Section 1. The church considers it one of its first duties to God, to spread the Gospel in all the world, and will seek ways and means to support the missionary work of our Baptist faith both at home and abroad. All money gathered for missions should be paid through the church treasurer, designated to the place or person for which it is given.

Article XII

Organization

Section 1. There should be a completely organized Sunday School under a full staff as necessary and under the direct supervision of the pastor of the church with support, as needed, by church elders.

Section 2. The following organizations within the church membership shall be governed in the same manner as the above-mentioned (Sunday School) organization:

- Adult Ministry Team
- Care/Compassion Team
- Children's Ministry Team
- Facilities Team
- Kitchen Team
- Library Team
- Missions Team
- Technology Team
- Worship Ministry Support Team

Article XIII

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a three-fourths majority vote of members present at any regular business meeting of the church providing notification of such intended change is given and recorded in the minutes at a previous regular business meeting of the church.

Article XIV

Disposition of Church Property

Section 1. In case of organic division of the church membership, the church property belongs to those members who abide by this confession of faith and Constitution.

Section 2. Dissolution. If the time shall ever come when the property now owned or hereafter acquired by the Eureka Baptist Church shall no longer be used for the purpose for which this church was organized, and if as a result it shall appear advisable then such property may be disposed of either by conveyance and transfer thereof, or by sale to charitable organization as may be selected by vote of the congregation. Such action may be taken by three-fourths majority vote of those present at a meeting called for that purpose according to Article VII, Section 2. Such action must first come as a three-fourths majority recommendation from the board. Said possible to the same purpose as set forth in this Constitution and shall never insure to the benefit of any donor, member or officer of this church nor shall any private individual be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the church assets.

Articles of Faith

Section 1

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the divinely inspired, infallible Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original, writing, infallible and God breathed.

II Tim, 3:16; II Pet. 2:20-21; Matt. 5:18; John 16:12-13

2. The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, co-eternal in being, co-identical nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection.

Deut. 6:4; II Cor. 13:14; I John 5:7

3. The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that he might reveal God and redeem sinful man.

John 1:1-14; Lk. 1:35; Matt. 1:22-23

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through the shedding of his blood and his death on the cross, as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by his literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

Rom. 3:24-25; I Pet 2:24; Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 1:3-5

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, he fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate.

Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; Rom 8:34; I John 2:1-2

4. The Person and the World of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, and, that He is the Supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption.

John 16:8-11; Rom 8:9; I Cor 12:12-14; II Cor 3:6; Eph 1:14-15

We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides the believers into all truth; and that it is the privilege of each believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13; Eph 5:18; I John 2:20-27

5. The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition.

Gen 1:26-27; Rom 3:10-18; 22-23; 5:12; 8:7-8; Eph 2:1-3; 12

6. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins.

Eph 1:7; 2:30-10; I Pet 1:18-19; John 1:2; Titus 3:5

7. The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Rom 6:13; 8:11-15; Gal 5:16-25; Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:10; I Pet 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9

8. Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon our Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God.

II Tim 3:1-5; Rom 12:1-2; I John 2:15-17; II John 9:11; II Cor 6:14 to 7:1

9. Missions

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind.

Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Rom 1:14-16; II Cor 5:9-20

10. The Church

We believe that the church, which is the body and espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age. I Cor 12:12-14; II Cor 11:2; Eph 1:22-23; 5:25-27

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures; and, that it has a worldwide vision, but in these days of apostasy Home Missions are vital.

Acts 14:27; 2:1, 28-32; I Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11

11. The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

Job 1:6-7; Isa 14:12-17; Matt 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev 20:10

12. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in that “Blessed Hope” the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation, premillennial coming of our Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

Zec 14:4-11; I Thess 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Rev 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6

13. The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgement and everlasting punishment.

Matt 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Rev 20:5,6,12-13

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord.

Lk 20:4-6; II Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23; 3:21; I Thess 4:16-177

We believe that the souls of the unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment.

Matt 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Kl 16:19-26; II Thess 1:7-9; Jude 6:7; Rev 20:11-15

14. Baptism

We believe the Bible teaches Baptism for all believers, by immersion; and that it is the duty of each believer to so live that the meaning of baptism will be clearly understood by each believer.

We do not believe in infant baptism, nor in adult baptism, but baptism for all true believers regardless of age.

Eph 4:5; Rom 6:4-5; Act 8:12; 38; 16:34; I Cor 1:14-17

We believe that it is a symbol of our identification with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection for our redemption; and that it is an act of obedience to the will of Christ on the part of the believer.

15. Communion

We believe the Bible teaches Communion for all believers; and that each believer is called upon to live worthily before partaking. We believe that it is a symbol of the broken body and shed blood of our Lord and should be practiced for the purpose of keeping in remembrance this fact.

Matt 26:26-29; Mk 14:22-25; Lk 22:17-20; I Cor 11:23-24

16. Bible Study

We believe the Bible teaches that each believer should be strengthened by the Word of God, both young and old will benefit from such study, but especially is this true of the young. A systematic study in the Word, under the tutorage of the pastor is highly recommended, though we not hold to the common practice of confirmation

II Tim 2:15; I Pet 2:1-3; II Pet 1:10; Prov 22:6

17. Dedication

We believe it to be Biblical to bring little ones unto the Lord to be blessed, and that this literally took place during the early ministry of our Blessed Lord. We therefore suggest that a service of dedication for children be observed from time to time as parents may request, and the pastor officiate. We do not believe in infant baptism, but do accent the Bible practice of bringing the young ones to be blessed.

Matt 19:13-15; Lk 10:13-16; Ld 18:15-17

18. Marriage

It is our stand as a church that marriage is between one natural born man and one natural born woman as stated in these scriptures. According to Matthew 19:4-6, "Haven't you read," He replied, "that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female" and said "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate." Mark 10:6-9; Genesis 2:22-24. The Pastor will also abide by this rule.

19. Race

It is our stand as a church that there is one race, the human race, that is made up of many different ethnic groups. Every human is created in the image of God and is therefore equal in his sight. No one is superior based on skin color. Neither is anyone guilty or a victim merely because of one's skin color. Rather, the sin of partiality takes place when one looks down on another merely because of ethnic differences. Each person, no matter their ethnicity, is to be treated with the love that God calls every believer to carry out. Genesis 1:26-27; Acts 17:26; James 2:1-9

Section 2

Members, in subscribing to these articles of faith, must by no means set aside or undervalue any of the Scriptures either of the Old or New Testaments, not herein mentioned.

We deem the knowledge, belief and acceptance of these truths as set forth here in our Articles of Faith to be essential and vital to sound faith, Spiritual growth and fruitful Christian service. Adopted October 21, 2018 – Updated January 16, 2022

THE NEW BIRTH

Just as a physical birth was necessary for you to come into this world a spiritual birth is required for you to go to Heaven. To be born again means, "to have experienced a spiritual birth, the new birth." Being born again or the new birth is also referred to as "salvation" or having been "saved."

THE NEED FOR SALVATION

"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—"Romans 5:12 ESV

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23 ESV

All people's natural tendencies are to run their own lives or do things their own way rather than God's way. Men sin because they are born sinners. Therefore, all mankind falls short of God's standard and have separated themselves from Him.

- Man has sinned
- Spiritual (and physical) death is the consequence of sin

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 ESV

- Man is dependent on God for salvation.

"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day." John 6:44 ESV

- Many are deceived into believing that they can work their way into heaven. Being a good person will not get you into heaven nor will church activities or church attendance. Salvation is a gift from God.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

GOD HAS PROVIDED THE WAY FOR US TO HAVE AN ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." Romans 5:6-11 ESV

- We were helpless and without hope until God demonstrated His love for us
- We must be justified to be saved from the wrath of God for our sins
- We are justified through Jesus Christ's atoning death for us on the cross at Calvary

HOW CAN I BECOME A CHILD OF GOD?

1. Admit your need ("I am a sinner"). Romans 3:23
2. Believe that Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for you, and on the 3rd day rose from the grave. John 3:36
3. Place your complete trust in Jesus Christ as the only one who can present you blameless before a Holy God. Knowing and believing the content of the Christian faith is not enough, for even demons can do that (James 2:19). Faith is only saving or "effectual" if, knowing about and assenting to the claims of Jesus, one personally trusts in Him alone for salvation. John 3:16
4. Confess and turn from (repent) your sins. Psalm 41:4; 130:4; Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9

SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

If you are truly saved, no one can ever steal your salvation from you. If you are not living a righteous lifestyle, however, you can forfeit the assurance of your salvation. Satan also loves to sow the seeds of doubt in the hearts and minds of God's people. If he can cause them to doubt their salvation, he'll cause them to become easily discouraged, and a discouraged Christian is ineffective in the Lord's work.

What is "Assurance of Salvation?"

It means that you know with absolute certainty that you have been borne by the Spirit of God.

The Bible is the basis of our assurance. **Read 1 John 5:11-13.**

vs.11 God has given us eternal life.

vs.12 Those who have the Son have life.

vs.13 This truth is given so you may know you have eternal life.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

GRACE: unmerited favor

SAVED: rescued

FAITH: belief, trust

What is the difference between Religion and Christianity?

Religion says, "do" work...

Christianity says Christ has "done" the work

Christianity is a relationship not a religion.

²⁸ "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me,^[a] is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." John 10:28-29 ESV

BAPTISM

Baptism is not merely about being immersed, making a commitment, or joining a particular denomination or church. None of these things convey the real meaning of baptism. Baptism is about publicly identifying with Christ. It is an act of obedience. Baptism is an outward expression of the inward work of the Holy Spirit resulting in aligning oneself with Christ and what He lived and died for.

If you were sprinkled as a child or christened, you have not been scripturally baptized. If you were immersed as a teen or adult but God had not changed your will so that you trusted and obeyed Him (and His Word), you were not scripturally baptized. If you were immersed (as an unbeliever) and became a Christian later in life, you have not been scripturally baptized. Does that mean that Christ does not accept you or loves you less? Absolutely not. Does it mean that you are not saved if you haven't been baptized? No. It means that as a believer, you need to be obedient and be scripturally baptized.

1. Why Should I Be Baptized?

A. To follow the example set by Christ.

*"In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan."
Mark 1:9 ESV*

B. Because Christ Commands it.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 ESV

C. It demonstrates that I am truly a believer.

"Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized." Acts 18:8 ESV

"And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments." 1 John 2:3 ESV

2. What Is the Meaning of Baptism?

A. It illustrates Christ's burial and resurrection.

"³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures," 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ESV

"having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead." Colossians 2:12 ESV

B. It illustrates my new life as a Christian.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4 ESV

Baptism doesn't make you a believer—it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you; only Christ's finished work on the cross does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring—it is the outward symbol of your union with Christ upon conversion.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

3. Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him,^[a] and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;" Matthew 3:16 ESV

Every baptism mentioned in the Bible was by immersion.

(Example) "⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing." Acts 8:38-39 ESV

The word "baptize" literally means "to dip under water."

The Greek word *baptizo* means "to immerse or dip under water."

4. Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has believed in Christ.

"⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." Acts 2:41 ESV

"But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:12 ESV

Take note, at Eureka Baptist Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of their sin and the Gospel report before they are baptized.

At Eureka Baptist Church, it is a requirement that every prospective member be Biblically baptized before being welcomed into the fellowship.

5. When Should I Be Baptized? As soon as you have believed the Gospel report and have received subsequent counsel by the Pastor or elders of Eureka Baptist.

“⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” Acts 2:41 ESV

“³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”^[a] ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38 ESV

THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Lord’s Supper is like baptism in that both are symbols or reminders. Baptism is a picture of our salvation and memorializes our initial union with Christ Jesus. In a similar fashion, the Lord’s Supper celebrates our ongoing unity with Christ and His people, is a picture of His sacrificial death to secure salvation for us, and is symbol of the fellowship with our savior that awaits us in heaven.

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death and subsequent resurrection. These two ordinances are: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

1. WHAT IS THE LORD’S SUPPER? (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

A. It is a simple act of obedience.

“²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,” (v.23) ESV

B. It is a reminder.

“²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (v.24) ESV

C. It is a symbol.

“In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” (v.25) ESV

D. It is a statement of faith.

“²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.” (v.26) ESV

2. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already **believers**. *Mark 14:22-26*

“²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.” 1 Corinthians 11:29 ESV

3. HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER?

“²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” 1 Corinthians 11:27-28 ESV

By...

- Self-Examination—1 Corinthians 11:27
- Confessing my sins—1 John 1:9
- Restoring Relationships—Matthew 5:23-24

4. WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD THE LORD'S SUPPER BE OBSERVED?

The Bible is not explicit on when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. Churches differ on the frequency of the Lord's Supper. Some churches observe this ordinance every week, and some once a month or once a quarter. The book of Acts seems to indicate that the early church partook of the elements frequently and also that the event was tightly woven into the sermon (“apostles' doctrine”), fellowship together, and prayer time.

At Eureka, we celebrate the Lord's Supper the 1st Sunday of each month.

DISCIPLESHIP

Taking the Next Step

Becoming a Christian is the beginning of a lifelong journey of obedience to Christ which transforms a person's values and behavior. No one is saved by God and is suddenly spiritually mature. All Christians begin the journey of spiritual growth at the same place—asking, what does it mean to follow Jesus? Discipleship is **learning** to be like Christ (Ephesians 4:20). Knowing Christ, instead of just knowing about Him, results in a **spiritual transformation** in life and heart, which reflects Christ to all we encounter. The call to **discipleship** is a call to transformation.

1. What is Christian Discipleship?

Discipleship is a process that begins after conversion and continues throughout a believer's life. Discipleship is not an option for a church or believer. Believers are to disciple each other as mandated in the Great Commission. Mature discipleship means that you are living for the Lord in all areas of your life and Christ is the center of your life.

Christian discipleship is **developing** a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ in which He transforms your character into Christlikeness; changes your values into Kingdom values; and involves you in His mission in the home, the church, and the world.

A disciple of Christ is someone who responds in faith and obedience to the gracious and effectual call of God. The Holy Spirit produces the new spiritual life in the person who is effectually called. The evidence of that new life is repentance and faith in Christ Jesus.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Spiritual growth comes through understanding ("orthodoxy") and practicing ("orthopraxy") the principles that are given in the Word of God. Where there is no growth, no true life exists. Spiritual growth is simply matching up our practice with our position.

1. DAILY QUIET TIME

Consistently devote part of each day to a quiet time so that you can spend time with the Father and can stay attached to the Vine. A quiet time is more than a mere habit. It is an appointment each day with Jesus Christ, who is at the center of our lives.

" But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," Matthew 6:33a ESV

*"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water." Psalm 63:1 ESV*

*"³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment." Matthew 22:37-38 ESV*

The only way to do everything that God has called you to is by staying in communion with Him. A disciple that has their priorities in order has no problem having a daily quiet time with God. The realization that we can do nothing without Christ (John 15:5) will result in a disciple seeking Him daily for daily instruction. This person thirsts and hungers for more of Him.

2. READING AND STUDYING THE BIBLE

The Bible tells us all we need to know about our relationship with God. The quality of our relationship with Him is dependent upon how much time we devote to His Word. Without continuous Bible study you will become spiritually anemic and live a defeated life.

" But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4 ESV

"¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15 ESV

3. MEMORIZING AND MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURES

Joshua 1:8 says "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have **success**." Memorizing puts God's Word in your head and meditating puts it in your heart. With God's Word in our hearts it is readily available for instant use.

"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11 ESV

"Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

*⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.*

*⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation." Psalm 119:97-99 ESV*

The absence of regular involvement with God's Word keeps you from being the kind of follower Christ wants you to be. When we meditate on Scripture we are filling our minds with God's Word and keeping our thoughts focused on things above. Meditation is deeply thinking on the truths and spiritual realities revealed in Scripture for the purposes of understanding, application and prayer.

4. PRAYER

It is God's desire that you seek Him through prayer. It is through our prayer life that we come to know the Lord Jesus in a personal way. You are challenged from this day forward to make prayer, more than just another thing to do, more than just another task or assignment, but rather as an indispensable part of your life. Spend time with God in prayer for our families, our church, our leaders, our communities, and for our nation. For when our prayer life becomes effective our relationship with Christ becomes more intimate.

"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." Jeremiah 33:3 ESV

The Bible is God's main communication with us. Prayer is our way of communicating with Him. Prayer is talking with God and is best learned by praying. The Holy Spirit helps us to know how to pray (Romans 8:26). Our heart's attitude is more important than the words we use.

5. STEWARDSHIP

A Christian steward is one who realizes that as Christians we live, move, and have our being in Christ. The Christian steward recognizes God as his master and lives for Him. The steward's life, personality, talent, time, influence, material substance... everything is dedicated to Christ. A Christian steward is also responsible and willing to walk in obedience to the commands and will of God (Romans 4:1-2).

Besides the tithe, God required His people to make offerings for the maintenance of worship, care for the temple, and salaries of the priests. Jesus said if we're generous with others, God will be generous with us. He is the model of generosity (Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 8:9). Giving is worship. It's a spiritual sacrifice, and expression of gratitude, because everything we have and enjoy comes from God. It's free expression of our love for God, whose gift to us infinitely outweighs anything we could ever give in return. Love offerings were also accepted. The way in which you give an offering is as important as the act itself.

Learning to give to the Lord of the things he has given you is an important part of your spiritual growth (2 Cor. 8:7).

Eureka Baptist Church Mission Statement

The Mission of Eureka Baptist Church is "to grow in Christ together."

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP...WHY BELONG TO A CHURCH?

"You are...fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God..." Eph. 2:19 ESV

IMPORTANT TRUTHS

What are the key dynamics about the church family?

1. The church is God's body. (I Corinthians 12:12-27)
2. God expects you to be a member of a church family. (Roman 12:4-5)
3. A Christian is born again into the family of God.

Whereas Jesus speaks of our being born again into the family of God (John 3:3), Paul uses the term adoption (Ephesians 1:5). Both are pictures of the same spiritual reality—those who were outside the family being brought into the family. Again, the emphasis is relationship—Father and child.

4. A Christian without a church family is contradiction.

You will not find a place in the Bible that says that you should become a member of a local church. Some have said that church membership is man-made and a church should not even have it. But let's point to a few places in the New Testament that mention something like what we would call church membership. The apostle Paul told Timothy to have churches keep a list of people in the church as widows were enrolled (1 Timothy 5:9-16). At the church in Corinth Paul commanded the church to remove a man from their assembly who was living in immorality (1 Corinthians 5:1). This begs the question. How can one be removed if he was not committed to the church in the first place? It appears this man was an active member who was disciplined out of the church. This man living in immorality is also mentioned in 2 Corinthians 2:6. In that verse it says the "majority" removed him from the church. This suggests there was a defined group of people that belonged to the church.

In the New Testament the Lord gave the responsibility to the church to figure out who they believed was a genuine believer and who was not (Matthew 16:19; 18:18). As one author put it, "we want our earthly records to approximate as much as possible heaven's own records – those names recorded in the Lamb's book of life." If one is a member this is an affirmation that the church believes this person is saved. Furthermore, the apostle Peter tells pastors to "shepherd the flock of God among them" (1 Peter 5:3). This assumes a group of people who have committed to a church and the Lord commands a pastor to look after those specific people.

5. Committing to a Church is Important

We live in a day where some people are loosely affiliated with a church and may church hop. This concept is foreign to the New Testament. In the New Testament your church was your church and you stayed there for the long haul. The Bible refers to Christians as brothers and sisters, and God as our father (1 John 3:16; 1 Timothy 5:2; Matthew 6:9). A church truly is a family, and a healthy family is committed to one another over the long haul. The New Testament commands believers not to neglect to meet together but to be in community on a regular basis (Hebrews 10:23-25). When you become a member you are saying I am committed to this believing community - this church.

"²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:25 ESV

6. You Give and You Receive

When you become a member of a church you are not only saying you commit to them, but you are also committed to gathering, praying, giving, and serving. It is a place where we hold one another accountable in love. Remember, we are

on this journey together through the life of faith. Living in community with one another is contrary to the independent mindset of our culture. But encouraging one another and holding each other accountable is for everyone's benefit in our congregation. The New Testament is full of one another passages that we are to carry out to our brothers and sisters in the Lord (Romans 12:9-16). Yes, we should do these to all Christians, but specifically you are to do these to your own church community. One author said, "Less will Christians regard their churches with a come-as-you-please and get-what-you-can attachment – one more store to peek your head into at the Christian mall or market. More will they view them as a body in which all parts care for one another – the home in which they live." This is what the New Testament has in mind for local body of believers - a church.

"Church membership means traveling together as aliens and strangers in this world as we head to our heavenly home." – Pastor Mark Dever

7. Eureka Baptist Process for Membership

- If You Have Received New Testament Baptism

You will share your testimony before the elders and submit a written testimony to be passed on to the church. If you are found to meet membership requirements, you will be voted on to officially become a member at the next quarterly meeting.

- If You Have Not Yet Received New Testament Baptism

You will be interviewed by the board of elders to confirm that you are a genuine believer in Christ, after which you can be baptized. You will submit a written testimony to be passed on to the church before the next quarterly meeting, where you will be voted on to officially become a member.

A written description of your "Salvation Testimony" is required from each prospective new member of Eureka Baptist Church. Please write a brief narrative of your salvation testimony and bring it to your interview with the elders. This will be shared with the church.

My Salvation Testimony