

## **ARTICLE III. Membership**

### **Section A. Eligibility for membership**

Eligibility for membership includes a sincere profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, a dedication to the principles of faith and conduct in which He taught, and a willingness to assume responsibility for church membership.

### **Section B. General Responsibilities of Members.**

Item I. It is the responsibility of members to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (I Peter 3:18), and to support the church and its ministry by their prayers, interest, attendance, and financial aid, and to cultivate and cherish Christian love ("agape" - unfailing good will) within the fellowship of the church.

Item 2. Those non-resident members who do not attend the services of the church, make financial contributions to the church, or respond to correspondence from the church shall, after a reasonable length of time, be placed on an inactive roll. They may be reinstated to the active roll by renewed attendance, contributions, or correspondence. When an inactive member requests a letter of recommendation to join another church, this will be regarded as evidence of new interest in the church and will automatically restore the inactive member to the active roll prior to the granting of the letter. Only active members shall be included in the church's statistical reports to the denomination.

### **Section C. Rights of Members.**

Item 1. Members only shall be entitled to vote in the transactions of the church. Church members shall be entitled to cast votes for constitutional amendments and/or other matters requiring congregational vote by absentee ballot on forms furnished by a designated staff member of the church during regular office hours during the ten business days prior to any constitutional amendment and/or congregational vote on transactions of the church. Quorum requirements on the day of the congregational vote shall be set forth in Article XI, Section B, Item 3.

Item 2. Members shall be entitled to hold church offices and present any matter of church business at a regularly scheduled business meeting.

### **Section D. Reception of Members.**

Item 1. We affirm our belief in Believer's Baptism, meaning a Christian Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by immersion as the normative practice at First Baptist Church, Henderson.

Item 2. All persons requesting membership shall present themselves at a public service of worship unless prevented from doing so due to disability as defined below. They shall be introduced to the congregation by the minister in charge, who shall state the manner in which they are presenting themselves.

Item 3. People may present themselves for membership in one of the following ways:

- (1) By transfer of membership or statement of membership from another Baptist church, or
- (2) A person who has been raised and nurtured in the First Baptist Church Henderson, or who, for the first time has professed their faith in Jesus Christ, and has professed their belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, shall be baptized by immersion following the normative practice of the Church, or
- (3) A person who has received baptism by a different mode than immersion and/or a person who has received infant baptism and has completed a confirmation process in another denomination session shall attend an orientation program for new members. While baptism by immersion is not mandatory in these circumstances, such persons are encouraged to explore, through orientation, the significance of baptism by immersion as it would impact on their spiritual growth and development. At the request of such person, a renewal of baptism will be conducted, or a public affirmation of faith after new member orientation will be offered, or
- (4) A person who is disabled to the extent that they are either unable to attend church or enter the baptismal pool will receive a believer's baptism by an appropriate method other than immersion, or
- (5) A person who has received infant baptism and has not been confirmed shall attend an orientation program for new members. Upon completion of that program, such person shall receive a Believer's Baptism by immersion

The candidate shall be regarded as under the watch-care of the church until all requirements for church membership are met.

### **Section E. Transfer of Letter**

Letters of recommendation for membership to other churches may be granted by a majority vote of the church or Deacons in a stated business meeting, upon the request of another church.