

How to become a member of

First Baptist Church of Geneva

1. Attend a two week “**Discovery**” class on Sunday mornings to discover:
 - How can I be sure of my salvation?
 - How do I tell what Christ means to me?
 - What about baptism?
 - What are my spiritual gifts and how can I use them?
 - How do I get connected with others in the church?

At the conclusion of **Discovery**, you have the option of completing a membership application.

2. Baptism by immersion is required for membership. Baptisms are scheduled two or three times a year.

Membership Participation Distinctions

1. A full Member may vote on all matters to be determined by the congregation, e.g., the call of a pastor, the annual budget, etc.
2. A Full Member may serve on a Church Board (Spiritual Life, Christian Education, Mission Outreach, Business, Personnel, Executive Council)

All other areas of service including teaching, ushering, serving communion, choir, and serving as a ministry volunteer are open to regular attendees as well as members.

A Place to Belong

Church Membership

Belong



First Baptist Church of Geneva

East Campus: 2300 South Street

West Campus: 3435 Keslinger Rd

Geneva, Ill 60134

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A place to Believe, Belong and Become

Why

Church

Membership?

Although the term “church membership” is not found in the Bible, the concept is very Biblical! Church membership is the mutual acceptance and commitment of the church body to the individual and the individual to the church body.

Reasons for Church Membership

1. Identification with God's people

God's people have always been clearly identified even though the expression of identification has varied by culture and time. Though common in America, the idea of the “independent Christian” is foreign to the New Testament. I Corinthians 12:20 state, “There are many members, but one body,” Christ designed

and instituted His church so that His people could be clearly identified with the church and be known as “the body of Christ.” Membership helps to identify one with Christ's church in a particular place.

2. A sense of belonging

When one formally joins any group or organization, the sense of belonging is significantly heightened. It is no longer “their church,” but “our church.” Therefore one feels more comfortable and readily expects and claims the benefits of belonging.

3. Acceptance of responsibility

To experience the full benefits and joys of marriage, one must be committed to the obligations and responsibilities of marriage. In the same way, to enjoy the full benefits of the church, one must also accept the full responsibilities. The Christian becomes a player instead of a spectator.

As a team member he or she accepts responsibility for the wins and losses of the team, while the spectator only observes.

4. Mutual support and accountability

The New Testament teaches that believers are to bind themselves together in relationships of mutual support and accountability (Ephesians 4, I Corinthians 5-6). Entering the commitment of membership is the fullest expression of submission to and love for the local body of Christ.