

Calvary Hills Baptist Church - Church Membership Checklist

Thank you for your interest in membership at Calvary Hills Baptist Church. This is an exciting time for both you and the church as you take one more step in your discipleship journey.

When we speak of the requirements of church membership, we are referring to those things that must be true in order to be considered a member. This is not an area of future expectation, but rather these requirements must be fulfilled *before being considered a church member*. This allows our church membership to experience great unity in shared experience and beliefs, while also protecting the reputation of Jesus and His church.

If you review this checklist and realize that you do not meet these requirements, we would love to meet with you and discuss it further so that you can be eligible as soon as possible.

(Check all that apply)

- I have trusted in Jesus for salvation. I have repented of my sin and placed faith in Christ alone. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- I have been baptized after my salvation, by immersion, under the authority of a local church.
- I have read and affirmed the Calvary Hills Baptist Church Covenant (attached).
- I have read and affirmed the Calvary Hills Baptist Church Statement on the Gospel (attached), as well as the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
- I have read and affirmed the Attitudes of a Calvary Hills Baptist Church Member (attached).

I have checked all above boxes in truth and good faith. I agree to pursue church membership at Calvary Hills Baptist Church. My signature below indicates a pledge to pursue membership at Calvary Hills Baptist Church.

X _____

(Please Sign Here)

(Please Print Here)

Calvary Hills Baptist Church - Covenant Preface

A church covenant is an agreement between members of a local church who intentionally desire accountability from one another. The church covenant is comprised of promises, expectations, ethical statements, and biblical standards. We summarize how we promise to live and serve together in the covenant. It states the moral principles of our worldview and extends a biblical standard by which we live. Our acceptance of this covenant follows the tradition of believers throughout the centuries who have pledged to God, and each other, to live out the gospel in community.

We use our covenant in two key ways today. We require all new members to agree upon it before joining the church, affirming their submission to it. We will also reaffirm our commitment to the covenant at least once yearly, at the discretion of the leadership. By featuring the covenant in our life together, we strive to protect ourselves from individual and corporate sin. Of equal importance, we challenge one another to live in light of a greater covenant; one initiated by love, sealed by sacrifice, and kept for eternity by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Calvary Hills Baptist Church - Church Covenant

Having been brought by God's grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, having been baptized upon our confession of faith, we now, in dependence upon His Spirit, resolve to live by faith, and so establish this covenant with each other as the local body of Christ.

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Eph 4:3)

We will be devoted to one another in brotherly love. With humility and gentleness we will patiently bear with each other, forgiving, encouraging and building one another up, exercising watchfulness over each other and disciplining one another when necessary. (Luke 17:3; Col 3:13; 1 Thes 5:11; 1 Pet 1:22)

We will purpose to gather together as one church, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves. We devote ourselves as a people of prayer. (Col 4:2; Heb 10:25)

We promise to raise our children and youth in the training and instruction of The Lord as revealed in the Scriptures, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends. (Eph 6:4; 1 Pet 3:1, Dt. 6:4-9)

We will rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, helping to bear each other's burdens. (Rom 12:15, Gal. 6:2)

We will seek, by God's help, to live carefully in this world, denying ungodliness and worldly passions. We will seek to live Spirit-controlled lives that bear evidence of His residence in us, demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit. We will strive to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, as we wait for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:12; 1 Pet 1:14, Gal 5:22-23)

We will defend and maintain an evangelical ministry in this church by supporting and upholding:

- The preaching of the Word of God (2 Tim 4:2)
- The administration of the Gospel ordinances
(Baptism and the Lord's Supper) (Acts 2:38; 1 Cor 11:26)
- The exercise of Church discipline (Matt 18:17; 1 Cor 5:13)
- The exercise of the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

We will contribute cheerfully, generously and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. (Matt 28:19; Luke 12:33; 2 Cor 9:7)

If we move 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.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen. (2 Cor 13:14)

Calvary Hills Baptist Church - Statement on the Gospel

The Bible, God's Word, has revealed to us everything that we need to know regarding our redemption in Christ, and God's desire that we live holy lives. His Word, the Bible, is inspired, without error, and it is the means by which we hear the gospel and know God's character.

God created the entire universe in perfection, including the first people, Adam and Eve. There was but one prohibition in the Garden of Eden, that Adam and Eve would not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In rebellion to God's revealed will, Adam ate of the fruit and plunged himself and his posterity into a condition of sin. This first sin brought a curse upon the entire human race; resulting in physical death and an eternity in a literal place called Hell. Every person is now born into sin, meaning that they are unable to worship God and love the things of God – unless God Himself initiates redemption.

While many religions teach that there are various ways to know God and make oneself clean by rituals, works of charity, or adherence to a philosophy, the Bible teaches that there is one exclusive way. Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, lived a life that perfectly pleased God the Father in every way. Jesus taught and performed miracles, but the reason that He came to the earth was to die a substitutionary death. Some 2000 years ago, Jesus was nailed to a cross like a criminal. He died and was placed in a tomb. There was great confusion. He had claimed to be God. He had claimed to usher in the Kingdom of God. He had claimed to be the long awaited Messiah.

Three days later on a Sunday morning, the Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead; the stone over the entrance to the tomb was rolled away and Jesus walked out, alive, in a physical body. He appeared to several women, His disciples, and then to about five hundred others. Forty days later He ascended into heaven where He now sits at the right hand of the Father. He charged His disciples to tell everyone what they had seen, first in Jerusalem, then to Judea and Samaria, and then on to the world.

This message is called the gospel. We believe that Jesus came from heaven to be a sin offering to God the Father. God was atoning for the sin of Adam in the garden so long ago, and for the sins that we commit everyday. God was redeeming a people for Himself. Those who repent of their sin and trust in Jesus as the only way of salvation will be saved from eternal judgment. God has accomplished redemption for His people. Those who take refuge in the finished work of Christ will be saved, the penalty of their sin cancelled. Where Adam failed, Jesus prevailed.

Now we have a wonderful hope and purpose in this life. We share this gospel with all of creation until Jesus returns. We believe that one day Jesus will bodily and visibly return in full glory to execute judgment and inaugurate a new heaven and a new earth. He is restoring all things. He is making all things new. What a blessed hope. What a joy to know the God of all creation and worship Him for eternity.

**We affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (the official confession of the SBC)*

Attitudes of a Calvary Hills Baptist Church Member

- I understand that church membership is not the same as membership in a country club or a gym. I am a member of the body of Christ. Just as a body needs the eye, ear, hands, and feet, so **I will be a functioning member of this body**. I will give, serve, minister, evangelize, study, and be a blessing to others. I will remember, “If one member suffers, all members will suffer; if one member is honored, all will rejoice.” (1 Cor 12:26-27)
- **I will seek to be a source of unity in the church**. I know that there are no perfect pastors, staff, members, or attenders. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. I will do all I can in, God’s power, to keep this church united for the sake of the gospel.
- **I refuse to let church gatherings be about my preferences and desires**. That is self-serving. I am in this church to serve others and to serve Christ. I can deal with inconveniences and matters of preference that are simply not my preferred style.
- **I will pray for my pastors regularly**. I understand that they do not clock in and out of ministry, and that their personal lives and work lives are one in the same. I will give grace and understanding on this matter. They prepare sermons, experience births, deaths, critique, personal conflicts, difficult counseling situations, and they must be biblical husbands and fathers. My pastors cannot serve the church on their own power. I will pray for God’s strength for them and their families everyday.
- **I see financial giving to the church as an act of worship**. I want to make a statement that Jesus’ lordship over my life extends into every area, including finances. Christians have historically given a tithe (one tenth of the first fruits) of their income to the Lord, and I will hold myself to that standard. If I am ever financially unable to give a true tithe (10%), I will give what I am financially able until I can increase my giving to a tithe.
- **I will lead my family to be good members of this church**. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in church meetings and at home. We will serve together as the church serves. I understand that I am the primary discipler of my children and will not completely delegate my God-given responsibility to the church.
- I see local church membership as a gift. When I received salvation in Jesus Christ, I became a part of the body of Christ, but I later identified with a local church body and was baptized. **I understand that I am not simply a member of the universal church, but I am a member of this unique local body in which I have covenanted**. Though I will cooperate with and serve alongside partnering churches, I will not “float around” between churches as a consumer. I see CHBC as the specific local body in which I am to primarily serve.