

# Union Chapel Church Membership

## **ARTICLE VII - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Members**

Union Chapel Baptist Church is comprised of persons who profess a personal faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, have been baptized by believer's baptism (immersion) according to the New Testament, and actively follow the Lord Jesus Christ in discipleship.

### **Section 2. Membership Process**

A person seeking membership in Union Chapel Baptist Church is requested to advise the pastor of his/her intentions. After the conversation with the pastor, a person shall become a member upon presenting him/herself during a worship service for membership and completing the New Member Orientation

The New Member Orientation will include providing each person with information pertaining to the vision, purpose, covenant, ministries, budget and financial policies, By-Laws and stewardship of Union Chapel Baptist Church.

## **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE/MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of this church is to proclaim the gospel of Christ in such a way that person(s) might come to be born into Christ's Kingdom; to provide opportunities of growth for born again believers through worship, fellowship, education, and service and to minister to the Spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of its members and others in our local community and around the world

(in simpler terms – **Exalt Christ, Make Disciples, Serve Others**)

We hold to the beliefs as depicted in the **Baptist Faith and Message 2000**.

### **Section 5. Responsibilities of Members**

Every member of Union Chapel Baptist Church is expected to be faithful in discipleship and service based on his/her giftedness. Recognizing that Christians are ministers of reconciliation, all members are expected to be active Christians in the work of the church and in the world.

### **Section 6. Expectations of a Member “in Good Standing”**

Members have a Biblical mandate to be faithful in all their duties as a Christian; to attend faithfully the congregational services; to practice Biblical stewardship by giving regularly to the support of the church and to share their giftedness in the organized work and ministry.

## Continuance of Membership

- i. The church may also, after due notice and kindly effort to make such action unnecessary, place a member on the inactive list. If a member has not faithfully attended church functions or met the expectations of a member in good standing, s/he is placed on the inactive members list. A member who is on the inactive list does not have any voting right, privileges of purchasing a grave plot in the church cemetery, or use of the church facilities for any reason. The exception to this action would be if the member(s) have been providentially hindered due to health reasons, military service, attending college, etc. In this case, they would not be placed on the inactive list. A non-resident member will also be placed on the inactive list.
- ii. The name of a member who has been on the inactive list for eighteen (18) months will be removed from the inactive list and placed on the “former member list”. A former member forfeits all rights or privileges of membership.

And our **Church Covenant** for Members is the following:

1. Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
2. we do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.
3. 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;
4. to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.
5. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;
6. to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment;
7. to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as beverages; to abstain from the use of substances harmful to our bodies; to use our influence to combat the abuse of all such harmful substances;
8. and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.
9. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; remember each other in prayer; aid each other in sickness and distress;
10. cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay