

Membership Class Notes

Name

- a. How long have you been coming to HLBC?
- b. Why do you want to become a member?

Church

- a. Not the building but the body of believers
- b. Ekklesia – called out ones
- c. Universal church (Invisible) – all believers in Christ Jesus no matter where they might be found. Colossians 1:18
- d. Local church (Visible) – believers of a local assembly I Cor. 1:1-2; I Thess. 1:1
- e. Statement of Faith, read these together from packet.

Baptist Distinctives

- a. Biblical authority: the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.
- b. Priesthood of all believers: we come directly into the presence of God through the one mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ our Lord (I Tim. 2:5)
- c. Saved church membership, profession of faith in Jesus Christ
- d. Individual soul liberty and freedom of conscience: In matters of religion, each person has the freedom to choose what his/her conscience dictates is right, responsible to only God for the decision that is made.
- e. Separation of church and state: free exercise of religious beliefs without pressure from the government
- f. Autonomy of the local church: independent body of believers accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ. Not a democracy but a theocracy with God at the top.
- g. Two church ordinances: symbols of spiritual realities, baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper (communion)
- h. Evangelism and World missions: we Baptists take the Great Commission of Christ seriously.

HLBC Vision & Mission: see handout (in packet)

Why should you join the church?

More than believer, we need to belong

Membership says

- a. "I am a genuine believer".
- b. "I have a spiritual family to support and encourage me in my journey with Christ"
- c. "I need a place to discover and use my spiritual gifts God has given me."
- d. "I need a place where I can be held accountable and can grow in love." (Relational Commitments policy)

e.g., "I accept responsibility for how things are done around here." (Business meetings, budgets, officers, calling of pastors etc.)

Conditions of membership

- a. Profession of faith
- b. Baptism by immersion as a believer
- c. In agreement with Statement of Faith
- d. In agreement with Relational Commitments Policy
- e. Interviewed by two elders
- f. Elders and council vote and then recommend to congregation for approval

Questions