

Membership Sunday 2020

**What is a Church?**

The Greek work *ekklesia* is the word commonly translated “church” in the New Testament. It is a word that means “a called-out assembly” or “an assembly of called-out ones.”

With this in mind, the local church is an assembly of people who have been called out by God. It is a gathered body of those who have repented of their sins and believed in Christ for salvation.

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 gives the following definition of a church according to the Scriptures:

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

[Matthew16:15-19; [18:15-20](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Matthew%2018.15-20); Acts2:41-42,[47](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%202.47); [5:11-14](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%205.11-14); [6:3-6](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%206.3-6); [13:1-3](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2013.1-3); [14:23](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2014.23),[27](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2014.27); [15:1-30](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2015.1-30); [16:5](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2016.5); [20:28](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Acts%2020.28); [Romans1:7](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Romans%201.7); [1Corinthians1:2](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%201.2); [3:16](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%203.16); [5:4-5](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%205.4-5); [7:17](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%207.17); [9:13-14](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%209.13-14); [12](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Corinthians%209.12); [Ephesians1:22-23](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%201.22-23); [2:19-22](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%202.19-22); [3:8-11](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%203.8-11),[21](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%203.21); [5:22-32](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Ephesians%205.22-32); [Philippians1:1](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Philippians%201.1); [Colossians1:18](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Colossians%201.18); [1Timothy2:9-14](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%202.9-14); [3:1-15](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%203.1-15); [4:14](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Timothy%204.14); [Hebrews11:39-40](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/Hebrews%2011.39-40); [1 Peter5:1-4](http://biblia.com/bible/hcsb/1%20Peter%205.1-4); Revelation2-3; 21:2-3]

A number of observations:

-Because a church is a group, one can be either included or excluded from it

-Because a church has responsibilities, there are jobs to do for which people must be held accountable

-Because a church is expected to be obedient to Christ, there must be discipline and the authority to carry out discipline

-Because a church has leaders, there must be a formal submission to and selection of leaders

-Because of all these factors, **it is necessary for qualified individuals to formally join, identify with, and submit to a local church under biblical leadership for the local church to function in a biblical manner that glorifies God.**

**Does the Bible Say I Must Join a Church?**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**12**For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.**13**For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**14**For the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15**If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16**And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17**If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? **18**But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19**If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20**As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

**21**The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” **22**On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23**and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, **24**which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, **25**that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. **26**If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

**27**Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

# Ephesians 4:11-16

# 11And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

# Hebrews 10:24-25

# 24And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,25not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

# Hebrews 13:17

# 17Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

**YES! In order to be a biblically faithful and obedient Christian, you must be a member of a local church. Scripture clearly classifies the believer as an individual member of a body of believers. He or she has an important role to play in the body and is expected to be under the authority of church leaders that are faithfully keeping watch over his or her soul.**

**Who Can Become a Member?**

In order to be a candidate for membership at Good Hope Baptist Church, you must:

-Repent of your sins and place your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation

 -Matthew 16:16-19, 24-25; John 17:20-26; Romans 10:8-10; Ephesians 1:17-23

-Be baptized by immersion after being born again and professing faith in Christ as Lord and Savior

 -1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:25-27

-Agree with, adhere to, and advocate Good Hope’s Statement of Faith (The Baptist Faith and Message 2000)

 -1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Timothy 4:6-16; Ephesians 4:11-13; 2 John 9-11

-Not currently under discipline from another bible-based local church

 -Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

**What Are the Responsibilities of a Member?**

The responsibilities of a church member are too many to list in this information packet. However, we will take the time to list 12 of the major responsibilities as defined by Scripture.

1. Greatest Commandments

Mark 12:29-31

**29**Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **30**And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ **31**The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

-In all duties, interactions, practices, and attitudes, both public and private, church members are expected to fulfill the greatest commandments as issued by Jesus. In all things, we strive to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbors.

2. Great Commission

# Matthew 28:18-20

# 18And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

-As the final command that Jesus issued to His followers before ascending to heaven, this great commission serves as the mission of the church. All our actions as a church should fall under the parameters of this great commission, and the members of Good Hope Baptist Church are expected to strive for obedience to this commission in all areas.

We can remember this commission by using the acronym S.E.N.T.

 S – SUBMISSION to the Lordship of Jesus (verse 18)

 E – EVANGELISM (verse 19)

 N – NEW LIFE as represented by baptism (verse 19)

 T – TEACH the observance of the whole Word of God (verse 20)

3. Committed Attendance of Gatherings

Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25

4. Submission to the Leadership of Good Hope Baptist Church

1 Timothy 5:17-20; Hebrews 13:17

5. Caring for Fellow Church Members

Acts 2:44-45; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 5:1-16

6. Giving to the Ministries of Good Hope Baptist Church

 Proverbs 3:9; Mark 12:41-44; Acts 2:44-45; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

7. Using Your Gifts, Talents, and Abilities to Serve the Church

Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:15-16

8. Discipleship

Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Matthew 28:18-20; Titus 2:1-8

 -Primary Methods at Good Hope:

 -Worship Gatherings

 -Small Groups

9. Unity with Your Fellow Church Members

John 17:20-23

10. Maintaining a Good Witness for Jesus and for Good Hope

Matthew 5:14-16; John 13:35

11. Appointing Leadership

Acts 6:3; Titus 1:5-9

12. Receive and Be Qualified to Give Church Discipline

Proverbs 27:17; Matthew 7:1-6; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

**Statement of Faith**

Good Hope Baptist Church is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention as well as the South Carolina Baptist Convention and the Saluda Baptist Association. As such, our Statement of Faith is the “Baptist Faith and Message 2000”. Our members must be in full alignment with our statement of faith. The full copy of the “Baptist Faith and Message 2000” can be found at www.goodhopeiva.org/beliefs

# The Membership Covenant

I have accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior and have been baptized by immersion. I agree with Good Hope Baptist Church’s organization and mission and choose to join in that endeavor. Feeling led by the Holy Spirit, I choose to unite with Good Hope Baptist Church as an active member. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

* 1. **I will protect the unity of my church** by **acting in love** toward other members, **following the leaders**, and **connecting with other believers in Bible Study**. (Romans 14:19; 1 Peter 1:22, Hebrews 13:17, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
	2. **I will share the responsibility of my church** by **praying for and working for its growth**, **inviting people** to attend, **warmly welcoming** those who visit, and **tithing regularly** of my income. (1 Thessalonians 1:1-2, Luke 14:23, Romans 15:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Malachi 3:8-10)
	3. **I will serve the ministry of my church** by choosing to **serve others** rather than be served, **finding my place of ministry**, and faithfully and sacrificially **volunteering**. (1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:11-12, Philippians 2:3-4, 7)
	4. **I will support the testimony of my church** by striving to live a consistent, **godly life**, **attending** faithfully, and **surrendering** every area of my life to the Lordship of Jesus. (Hebrews 10:25, Philippians 1:27, Romans 12:1-2)

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Have you been born again and saved by faith in Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been baptized by immersion since becoming a follower of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you need help finding a small group?

I'm interested in trying out at serving on one (or more) of the following teams (circle all that apply):

Greeting, Coffee and lobby/café prep, Safety, Prayer ministry, music, sound, tech, Kids: Nursery, Toddlers, Pre-School, Elementary, Youth: 6th-12th Grade

If you have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus, have been baptized,

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Signed

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