

This packet is not fully original and has drawn from a few other pastors who shared their membership materials with me and is provided as an example for you to adapt (or use in its entirety) for your own church and not for profit. – Ryan Marks

Lebanon Baptist Church

Membership Application and Information Packet

Church membership? Is it Biblical or is it the idea of people? Throughout the New Testament we see individual people place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, follow Him in Baptism as a public profession of their faith, and then gather as specific groups of people who are seeking to follow Jesus with specific leaders. We see each of these gatherings was a local church family; therefore, we believe that each church had its own members, pastors, and identity as a church family under the collective headship of Jesus Christ.

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” **Ephesians 2:19**

Key Truths:

1. The church is family.
2. God expects you to be a member of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is a contradiction.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

...That I will commit myself to Christ and to the church.

“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” **Galatians 3:26-28**

The Meaning of Membership

The difference between “*attendees*” and “*members*” can be summed up in one word: Commitment.

1. A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

“...Christ loved the church and he gave himself up for her.” **Ephesians 5:25**

2. A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. **1 Corinthians 12:26-27**

3. A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

4. A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from 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.

Ephesians 4:15-16

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the goal of the Gospel. As a church family, we desire as individuals to make our relationship with Jesus our personal priority and our desire for every other as well.

“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

John 17:3

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew 6:33

SOAP – A simple method for Bible Study

Scripture – Read the Scripture

Observe – What the Scripture and its surrounding context says. Note repeated words, commands and accolades. What is the main point of the passage? Just taking one verse alone for the entire meaning “verse jerks” the meaning God intended.

Application – How is the Holy Spirit guiding you to apply this passage to your life? What lessons or truths are made clear that need to be applied by shaping your worldview?

Prayer – Sincere, heartfelt prayer should be the anthem and result of all that we learn in God’s Word. Only God can enable us by His Spirit to obey it and to share it.

TEAM MINISTRY

Together Everyone Accomplishes More

Throughout the Bible, God clearly calls Believers to serve Him together, not live as spiritual loners. We need accountability, encouragement and mutual care as Believers. The Scriptures teach that God has individually gifted each Believer and has called church leaders to equip and release the church body to go do what God has called and gifted them to for the extend of the Gospel and encouragement of other Believers.

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:10***

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. **Ephesians 4:11-12***

DISCOVERING YOUR MINISTRY

The Holy Spirit gives every Believer a spiritual gift upon salvation. It is a gift that we do not get to choose but are entrusted to obey God and serve Him first and His Body with. The beauty is that when each member individually obeys God in their service to Him and one another, it works together like a beautiful rainbow. Each member, just as each color, is distinct and yet together is beautiful and brings even more glory to God than anyone could on their own.

*But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? **Romans 9:20-21***

*There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all **I Corinthians 12:4-7***

I would be interested, and believe the Lord is leading me in serving in the following areas:

- Adult Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Student Ministry
- Evangelism/Outreach
- Bus / Transportation
- Guest Ministry
- Hospitality/Kitchen
- Missions
- Music
- Multimedia/Tech
- Men's
- Usher
- Office Volunteer
- Women's
- Other: _____

Name: _____ Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please list additional information or comments below:

HOW WE “DO” CHURCH

Lebanon Baptist Church is a “theocracy” in that the church seeks to know and do the will of God in His way on earth. Yet, it is also a “democracy” in that the church seeks to discover His will by group participation and vote prayerfully. This is not only done because group decisions are usually more valid than individual opinions, but also because the Lord in Scripture guided the members of the early church in the Bible, not just the leaders, to God’s will. We serve the same God and believe He will lead us all.

OUR STRUCTURE

- We are _____ pastor _____ led. (Acts 20:28, I Peter 5:1-3, Hebrews 13:7 ,17)
- We are _____ deacon _____ served. (Acts 6:1-7)
- We are _____ congregation _____ approved. (Acts 15:22)
- We are _____ volunteer _____ ministry driven. (Ephesians 4:12)
- We are _____ gospel _____ focused.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20

Lebanon Baptist Church is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. As such, we are legally governed by our Constitution and Bylaws.

OUR BELIEFS

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 is our church statement of faith and this statement reflects the teaching of Scripture and is a guideline of unity in the doctrine taught throughout our church.

We also have a shorter statement of core biblical doctrines that all members of Lebanon Baptist Church affirm.

**include approved church covenant and basic statement of faith – core doctrines*

**include copy of church bylaws and constitution*

**include copy of Baptist Faith and Message 2000*

We are a Baptist church...what does that mean?

Every thing we believe is tested not by “Baptist tradition” but by the Word of God. The Bible is the only source worthy to be followed in what we are to Believe and how we are to live out Following Jesus.

Bible is the sole source of authority for all matters of what we believe and teach, and how we live out our faith (2 Peter 1:16-21, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Proverbs 30:5-6).

Autonomy of the local church – churches in the New Testament had no hierarchical structure of control. They were under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and led by God-called, Spirit-led men who served as undershepherds of Jesus Christ to a local flock (1 Corinthians 1:2, Colossians 1:2, Acts 6, Acts 9, 1 Corinthians 3:11, Matthew 16:17-18, Acts 20:28).

Priesthood of all Believers – every Christian has equal access to God through Jesus Christ. The ground is level at the foot of the cross (1 Peter 2:5, Matthew 27:51, Hebrews 4:14-16).

Two ordinances: Baptism and Lord’s Supper (Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 28:18-20, John 4:1-2, 1 Corinthians 1:12-17, Acts 8:26-38, Acts 2:41, Romans 6:3-4, Matthew 26:26-29, 1 Corinthians 11:23-32).

Individual Decision – each person is accountable for the personal choice they make for or against surrendering their life to Jesus Christ (Romans 9:2-3; 10:9, 13; John 3:16-21).

Saved church membership – profession of salvation and baptism by immersion are requirements for church membership. We also believe in a Spirit-led membership which is born again and living for Christ (Acts 1:14-15, Acts 20:28, Hebrews 13:17, Numbers 14:26-33, Acts 9:26-27, Acts 13:1-4, Acts 15:1-4, 22-31; Ephesians 4:15-16, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, John 13:35, 1 Peter 4:8-11, Ephesians 4:1-7, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Corinthians 6:1-20).

Two offices – there are two servant-leadership roles in the church: pastors and deacons (Philippians 1:1, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-2:15, Acts 6:1-7).

Separation of church and state in jurisdiction and function (Romans 13:1-7, Jeremiah 18:7-11, Daniel 3:15-18, Jonah 3:1-2, 5).

OUR AFFILIATION

Lebanon Baptist Church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC, also called MO Baptists), and Jefferson County Baptist Association – fellow Baptists who we cooperate with in the cause of fulfilling the great commission and in fellowship with like-minded Believers.

- **The Jefferson Baptist Association** – 38 churches that fellowship together, located mostly in the Jefferson County, MO. Our mission: We are churches cooperating to faithfully fulfill the Great Commission through church planting, church sending and church strengthening for the glory of God.
- **The Missouri Baptist Convention** - 1,800 churches that fellowship together with the goal of evangelizing our state.
- **The Southern Baptist Convention** – 47,000+ churches that cooperate together in a world-wide effort of missions.

What is the Southern Baptist Convention?

- It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made “creed.” The Bible is our only authority.
- It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC “Cooperative Program” we help support missionaries internationally and in the United States.

Why not just be an independent church?

We are an independent church. Every SBC church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy. For example:

- Every SBC church, under the leadership of the Lord, chooses its own pastor.
- Every SBC church, under the authority of the Lord, owns its own buildings and assets.
- Every SBC church, by the guidance of the Lord, determines its own programs.

MY RESPONSE

Please complete the form below

___ I am of "like mind" and in "one accord" with the statements of the Lebanon Baptist Church Membership Packet, affirm Lebanon's core doctrines statement of faith, and membership covenant.

Any questions or disagreements in regard to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (which is the church statement of faith and teaching covenant):

___ I have surrendered my life to Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord

___ I have been baptized by immersion

Date of baptism: ___/___/___

Name of church/place you were baptized: _____

___ I do not wish to join at this time, but I will continue attending the church.

Printed name:

Date:

Address:

Home Telephone:

Cell Phone:

Are you requesting a "letter of membership" from another church of like faith and order?

___ YES

___ NO

If yes, from where? _____

Please return to the Pastor, a Deacon or the Church Clerk.