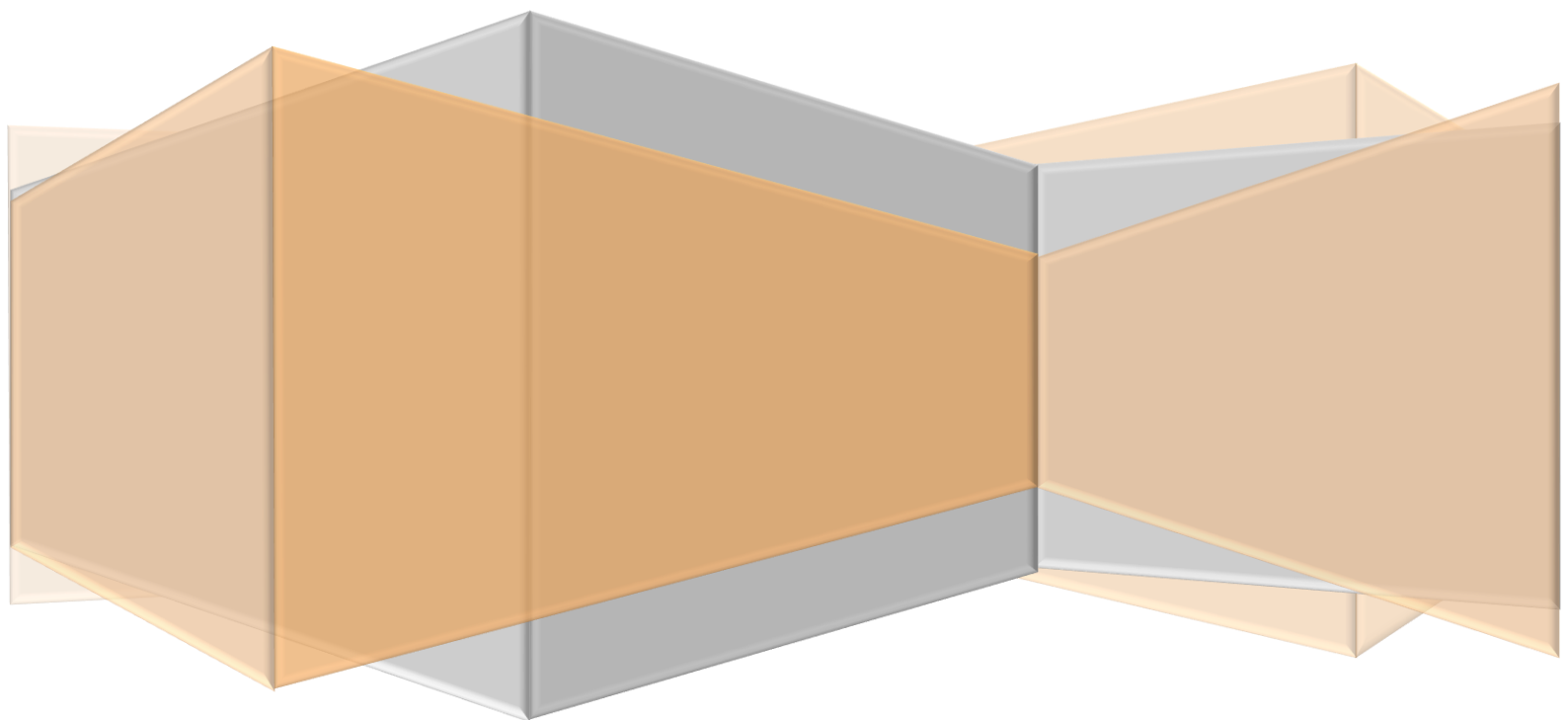




Membership Handbook

The why and how of church membership



How to Become a Member

Requirements for becoming a member:

1. Have **accepted Jesus Christ** as Saving-Lord.
2. Understand and agree with our **statement of beliefs**
3. Have experienced **believers baptism by full immersion**
4. Leading a life that reflects their **Christian commitment**
5. Agree with the **Constitution and Ministry and Leadership Structure.**
6. Return a complete **“Membership Application”** form.

NB: A person may be admitted to membership by either; Profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and has been baptized by immersion; Transfer from another Baptist church, or Restoration (previously baptized by immersion).

All persons applying for membership shall attend New Members classes arranged by the Church.

On the recommendation of the Leadership Team, the applicant's name will appear in the Church Bulletin on two (2) consecutive Sundays. If there are no objections the applicant will be taken as being affirmed by the membership as a member of the church.

If an objection is raised, the Leadership Team will discuss it at appropriate times with the objector and the applicant to determine if there are grounds for the objection. A recommendation will then be made to the membership at a Member's Meeting to decide on the applicant's admittance.

All persons admitted shall be welcomed into membership at a church service or member's meeting as soon as practicable after acceptance.

What we believe

1. The Divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testaments.
2. The existence of one God in three persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
3. The Deity and Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, the Second Person in the Holy Trinity.
4. The fallen, sinful and lost condition of all people.
5. The salvation of people from the penalty and power of sin, through the perfect obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ, His atoning death, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension to the right hand of the Father and His unchanging Priesthood.
6. The immediate work of the Holy spirit in the regeneration of people, in their sanctification and in their preservation to the Heavenly Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. The necessity, in order to receive salvation, of repentance towards God and of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. The resurrection of the dead and the final judgment of all people by the Lord Jesus Christ.
9. The two ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ – namely, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which are of perpetual obligation. Baptism being the immersion of Believers upon the profession of their Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a symbol of the fellowship of the regenerate in His death, burial and resurrection; the Lord's Supper being a memorial until He comes, of the sacrifice of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Covenant of Fellowship

1. As baptized believers meeting together as the Reedy Creek Baptist Church, we have been joined together in a holy union and fellowship in reverence for the Lord.
2. We will strive to walk in holiness and Christian love (1 Corinthians 13); we will watch over each other for good, and endeavour to stir up one another to love and good works. We will pray for one another, bear one another's burdens as God shall enable us, and make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
3. We will meet together with the whole church on the Lord's Day. In groups, in Member's Meetings, and at other times as we have opportunity. We will pray for and encourage the leaders of the church in the discharge of their duties. As Members and those charged with responsibilities as defined in this Constitution, we accept our responsibility to the Lord and His Body (as represented by the Reedy Creek Baptist Church).
4. As we believe that every member has a ministry we will encourage each other under the Holy Spirit's guidance to discover and use their gifts, and so be instrumental in building up the Body of Christ. We will contribute our money freely through tithing and offerings, for the support of the church and generally strive to observe and do all other duties expressed in the Word of God.
5. We will work together to extend the Kingdom of God in our community, city, nation and world.

Our Baptist Distinctives

Baptists may be defined as those who hold in common a set of core values. These values are not necessarily our most important beliefs, but they do serve to distinguish Baptists from other denominations. Many other Christian groups share one or more of these values, but Baptists embrace them all.

The following Historic Baptist Distinctives are important to the life and work of Reedy Creek Baptist Church

I. Freedom of Conscience

Each person is responsible for their own relationship with God. Only in freedom can a person give one's heart and life to Christ. Through freedom of conscience we recognize the importance that God places on the free will given to humanity and that no one else can answer for us: not the church, not a creed, not a denomination, not the clergy.

II. Freedom of Religion

Because each person is responsible for their own relationship with God, it is imperative that no person or human institution, particularly government, be a coercive influence either in support of or in opposition to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each individual must be afforded the right to define their own relationship with God. This right should be guaranteed in both law and practice. Preventing the government from involvement in religion protects society from the tyranny of the majority, individual liberty from coercion and religion itself from corruption by powerful but sinful, finite individuals. For these reasons, church and state should be separate.

III. Priesthood of All Believers

Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, each person has been given direct access to God. No woman or man needs an intermediary to commune with God, interpret scripture or minister on her or his behalf. Pastors and full-time clergy are called by God to ministry as a vocation. Although they inhabit a leadership position by virtue of their vocation, their role does not place them in a theologically superior position to the laity.

IV. Autonomy of the Local Church

Each Baptist church is intended to be a fellowship of like-minded believers, autonomous in its governance and affiliations. Affiliations with the Queensland Baptist Union and other Baptist entities are voluntary. In affiliating with denominational entities, a Baptist church does not relinquish any of its autonomy or independence regarding either theology or governance.

V. Sufficiency of Scripture with Christ as the Interpretive Centre

The Bible is the supreme theological determinant of our beliefs. All creeds or statements of belief, including this one, are secondary to, and should be examined in light of, scripture. The appropriate lens through which we understand scripture is the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Scripture cannot be interpreted independently of either Jesus Christ or the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

VI. Believer's Baptism by Immersion

Baptism is appropriate only when an individual has voluntarily chosen to seek forgiveness from sin and further the Kingdom of God, being the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Baptism is a symbol of the death and burial of the individual's "old life" and the resurrection of the person to their "new life" bestowed through the grace of God through Jesus Christ. Consistent with the koiné Greek word on which the word "baptize" is based, baptism is performed by full immersion of the individual. Reedy Creek Baptist Church understands and respects that other Christians practice baptism by other modes and with other meanings; however, Reedy Creek follows this traditional Baptist model.

Deciding About Membership

God has a great plan for each of us and part of that plan is for each of us to be a part of a local church fellowship. As with all things, we should place the decision regarding membership before Him to ensure a good decision

If you would like to proceed toward membership please fill out an Application Form and return it to the office.

We recognize that not everyone is ready to become a member of RCBC and you certainly do not have to become a member in order to participate in ministry with us.

1. Learn more about RCBC

If you are brand new, you may want to learn more about RCBC by taking some time to get to know us through our Sunday services, our small groups, service ministries, personal interactions with our people and leadership.

2. Believer's Baptism without Membership

You may want to be baptized NOW but leave off joining the church membership until a later time – this is fine!

3. Believer's Baptism and Membership

If you have not been baptized as a believer it would be our great privilege to baptize you and hope that you will also choose to become a member.

4. Involvement in a Church Ministry

You may not want to become a formal member at this time but would like to serve in a particular ministry. There are many opportunities to serve in our church and one of the Ministry Staff would be happy to talk more about the unique way(s) you can become more involved.