

will be accepted into membership upon satisfying the church as to their faith in Christ, their desire to live in a manner pleasing to Him, and their acceptance of the church's doctrinal statement.

E. Applicants shall be interviewed by two members of the church. One of these shall be an officer. The church will hear their report and recommendation and decide on the application.

F. We seek to show love and acceptance to all Christians but we can admit to church membership only baptised believers.

IV. The Membership list shall be revised annually and members who have been systematically absent from public worship during the previous year shall be removed from the roll, unless sufficient reason for such absence be given.

V. Members joining the church shall be expected to accept their responsibility to participate regularly in public worship and the Lord's Supper; to contribute to church funds systematically as the Lord enables them; to engage in some form of Christian work in connection with the church; to maintain the spirit of Christian love and unity; and to make attractive the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things as God enables and gives opportunity and gifts.

VI. In the case of private offence between Christians, members are expected to follow the rule prescribed by Christ in Matthew 18:15-17.

VII. In cases of open backsliding, inconsistency, or doctrinal error, it is the duty of the Church to exercise discipline, according to 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15 and Titus 3:10,11.

VIII. A Church General Meeting shall be held at least once a year. A Statement of Church Finances

shall be presented at least once a year. Members introducing new business must give a week's previous notice in writing to the officers through the secretary.

IX. All matters pertaining to the business of the church shall be regarded by the Members as confidential unless agreed otherwise.

X. No alteration shall be made in these rules except by vote of two thirds of the members present at a church meeting called for the purpose and announced on two preceding Sunday mornings.

XI. A copy of these rules shall be given to all applicants for membership.

MEMBERS' PROMISE

Each member, upon acceptance into membership, will be expected to affirm the following:

I declare that the Lord Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour and I affirm my commitment to live in obedience to Him.

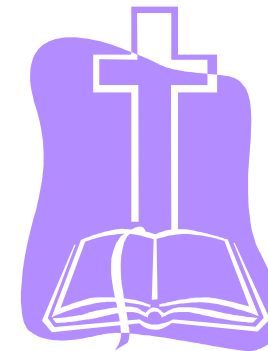
I affirm my commitment to His people. I accept my responsibility to seek always to live at peace with my brothers and sisters, to promote the unity of the body, to relate to them in love, to encourage them and to bear their burdens as I am able. I promise to exercise patience, to avoid harsh or ungenerous criticism, to seek always to promote their good and to do what I can to help them grow in their faith and likeness to the Lord Jesus.

I promise to join my fellow members in worship and service as God enables me.

In making this promise I recognise my own human weakness and ask the help of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**JAMESTOWN RD BAPTIST
CHURCH**

CONSTITUTION & RULES



JAMESTOWN RD BAPTIST CHURCH

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MISSION STATEMENT

Jamestown Road Baptist Church exists to glorify God, by declaring His love and mercy so that people put their faith in Christ, learn to obey all His commands and grow in likeness to Him.

We desire to maintain a simplicity and purity of life and worship that will please our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, and bring honour to Him.

We desire to live in love and harmony with all followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our desire is that this Church may serve only to further His glory, to edify and comfort His people, to win the lost, and to promote true understanding of the Scriptures. Looking up to God alone for strength and blessing, we pledge ourselves solemnly to work together for the attainment of these objects, in love and unity of thought and word and action.

BELIEFS

We desire to extend to all believers full and free liberty of conscience, but we expect all church members to affirm the following doctrines of our faith, as understood in a simple, straightforward and evangelical sense:

I. The Scriptures - The verbal inspiration and total inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as originally given by God; their sufficiency and final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

II. God - One God in three persons, the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-equal, co-eternal, sovereign and active in creation, providence and redemption.

III. The Lord Jesus Christ - The essential deity and perfect humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and men; His virgin birth, sinless life and sacrificial death on the cross as the only substitute for sinners; His burial, bodily resur-

rection and ascension to heaven; His high priestly ministry and personal return.

IV. The Holy Spirit - The work of the Holy Spirit in regenerating the sinner and indwelling, sanctifying and empowering the believer.

V. The Devil - The personality of the devil; his evil activity and final doom.

VI. Man - The creation of man in the image of God; the entrance of sin through Adam's disobedience; the fallen and totally depraved state of all men; their subjection to God's wrath and condemnation; their responsibility to repent and believe the Gospel.

VII. Justification - The justification of the sinner by God's grace through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ; the eternal security of the believer.

VIII. The Church - The local church as a company of baptised believers gathered under the headship of Christ for worship, fellowship, instruction and evangelism; the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper:

- baptism being the immersion of believers on profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a symbol of their identification with Him in His death, burial and resurrection;
- the Lord's supper being a remembrance of Christ until He comes and a renewal of commitment to Him;

the offices of elder and deacon; the gifts of evangelist and pastor-teacher; the priesthood of all believers and their unity in the Body of Christ; the separation of church and state.

IX. The Future State - The unconditional immortality of the soul; the resurrection of the body; the eternal joy in heaven of the believer; the conscious eternal punishment in hell of those who die impenitent.

X. Christian Behaviour - The responsibility of all believers to obey and serve the Lord and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives; the duty of the church to exercise godly discipline in a loving and caring fashion.

RULES

I. The officers shall consist of the Pastor and Elders and Deacons - two of whom shall fill the positions of secretary and treasurer.

II. The suitability of an individual to serve as Deacon or Elder must be recognised by at least a majority of active members before appointment. A separate policy on the procedure for appointment/dismissal of officers shall be maintained. We affirm our conviction that the Bible admits men only to the office of elder.

III. There shall be three categories of members:

A. Active Members – Those who are participating fully in the life and ministry of the church.

B. Inactive Members – Those who are unable due to their circumstances to participate fully in the life and ministry of the church.

(i) Members shall be classified as inactive if they have not participated fully in the life of the church for a period of 3 months.

(ii) They shall have a voice but no vote at any members' meetings they might attend.

(iii) Active status shall be restored upon the completion of 3 months of active participation.

C. Associate Members – Those whose stay in the area is temporary. These would include students and short term mission workers attached to the church. The latter will become associate members automatically upon taking up their responsibilities as full time workers in the church.

(i) Associate members will have a voice but no vote at members' meetings and are not eligible for the offices of Deacon or Elder.

(ii) Associate membership terminates immediately once the individual moves from the area and ceases to be actively involved.

D. Applicants to both full and associate membership