

TPIBC Policies—Membership

Title	Membership
Guideline no.	1
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Revision History

Version	Date	Comments
1.0	8-Mar-2015	Original release

1. Scope

This policy covers all aspects of church membership.

2. Definition

Church membership affiliates an individual believer with TPIBC.

3. Becoming a member

a. By a profession of faith and baptism*

- The beginning point for membership in God's church is to have a personal saving experience with God. We learn of our need for a transformation of heart and mind through the witness of the church. For those humble and teachable in spirit, we repent of our sinful condition, and ask and receive the cleansing power of God's Holy Spirit. At this point, God indwells us and we need to identify with His people, with His church.
- The second step is to present ourselves to the church asking for baptism as a public declaration (witness) of our new special relationship with God. The church will consider the application of the church candidate and vote on acceptance (at the Mother Church Deacons Board meeting) at a suitable date after special training and observation.
- The training is provided by the Pastor in a series of lessons on faithful church membership. The lessons include: need for personal salvation experience, and need for growth in the disciplines of Bible study, prayer, worship, stewardship or handling of resources, lifestyle, and service.
- Baptism (by immersion in water) will follow the period of training and approval by the Mother Church Deacons Board.

b. By a letter of recommendation*

- A candidate may present himself/herself as a candidate for membership based on a prior *Profession of Faith and Baptism* in another Baptist church that is a member of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong. TPIBC will accept the candidate's written application and a Letter of Recommendation from their former church.
- If the former church is not a member of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, is an overseas church, or is a non-Baptist church, then the application requires special approval by the Mother Church Deacons Board, with the possibility of an interview of the candidate being required.

* A minimum of 1 year of regular attendance (defined as 80% worship attendance) is required before an individual may become a TPIBC member by baptism or by letter of recommendation.

4. Responsibilities of TPIBC members

- Members should glorify the Lord and promote the ministry of His church.
- With the help and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, we keep ourselves in the love of Christ.
- We obey God's Word and His divine teachings.
- We work diligently to grow in our knowledge, holiness and mutual concern for the sake of the church.
- We will enhance the work of the church and develop spiritually.
- We will maintain our practice of worship, the customs and all the doctrines of the church.
- We will cheerfully give our regular offerings, support the work of the church, and proclaim the gospel.
- We commit ourselves to extend the holy kingdom of our Savior.
- We commit ourselves to family worship and personal devotion.
- We will educate our children in the truth of the Bible.
- We will strive to guide our relatives and friends to Christ.
- We will be just in our deeds, and be exemplary in our attitudes and behaviors.
- We will refrain from all habits that are harmful to the body and mind, the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- We will keep our covenant of love and concern for each other and remember each other in prayer.
- We will help, support and encourage one another in times of illness and suffering.
- We will cultivate the fervor that a Christian should possess and learn to be humble in our speech.
- We will be slow to anger, seek peace at all times and wholeheartedly keep the Lord our Savior's commandments and admonitions.

5. Church responsibilities that require membership

- a. Only members of TPIBC may serve on the Church Management Committee
- b. Only members of TPIBC may be ordained as deacons
- c. Only members of TPIBC may serve as Worship Leaders
- d. Members of TPIBC are strongly encouraged to attend the MGMs and AGM and vote on the agenda items (non-members are welcome to attend but do not have the right to vote)