

# *How Do I Become a Member?*

You have been attending the services of Sycamore Hills Baptist Church and are interested in becoming a member of the church. We are grateful for your interest and welcome many into our fellowship each year. There are four different ways that one may become a member of Sycamore.

## **1. By Profession Of Faith And Baptism:**

If you have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life we will gladly receive you as a member following your testimony of that faith through baptism.

We recognize that salvation comes through faith in Christ alone and that His church is comprised of those that have truly come to Him in faith. In the New Testament baptism is the public testimony of this faith in Christ.

If you would like to know more about salvation in Christ and baptism, our pastor, one of our staff members or a deacon will be glad to visit with you on an individual basis. You may also want to read one of our brochures entitled **What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?** or **Do I Need To Be Baptized?**

## **2. By Promise Of Letter From Another Baptist Church:**

If you are presently a member of another Baptist church of like faith and order, you may join Sycamore Hills by transferring that membership to us. This is sometimes called Amoving your church letter.

We encourage you to express your desire to the pastor, one of our staff members or a deacon and they will instruct you on the procedure to follow. When you visit you will be asked to verbally describe when you came to receive Christ and when you testified of this through baptism.

Our church office will take care of writing to your former church requesting that your membership be transferred.

## **3. By Statement of Conversion and Baptism in a Baptist Church When No Letter Is Available:**

There are occasions when an individual has made a profession of faith and testified of that faith through baptism in a Baptist church but records have been lost, the church has ceased to exist or other circumstances make the transfer of membership impossible. Sycamore Hills will receive you as a member based on your statement that this has indeed happened in your life.

As in the promise of letter, you will be asked to verbally describe when you came to receive Christ and when you testified of this faith through baptism.

## **4. Statement of Conversion and Believer's Baptism in a Church Of Another Denomination:**

If you are a member of a church of another denomination, have received Christ as your Lord, and have testified of your faith through believer's baptism you will be received by statement into the membership of Sycamore Hills.

An important criterion for this method of joining is that your previous church be of like faith and order. This means that they have the same view regarding Christ, the salvation He provides, the scriptures, and the ordinances of the church.

Some churches, while practicing the same form of baptism that we do would greatly differ with us on these critical issues. For this reason, this method requires the recommendation of our pastor and deacons. Our pastor will be glad to visit with you on an individual basis regarding membership in this manner.

## ***Common Questions:***

*Q: I received Christ as Lord and Savior quite some time ago, but have never been baptized. Do I need to be baptized in order to join the church?*

A: Yes. Although baptism is not a part of your salvation, it is the New Testament method of public testimony regarding your salvation.

*Q: Do I need to write or call my former church and ask them to send a letter about my membership?*

A: No. When you request to have your membership transferred we will write to your former church and ask them to send us a letter granting your membership to us.

*Q: I am a member of another church that is not a Baptist church but I do not know if they believe the same as this church. What do I do?*

A: Make an appointment to visit with our pastor, a staff member or a deacon to discuss whether or not your church is of like faith and practice

*Q: I have received Christ but I have not been baptized. Does that mean that I am not considered a Christian?*

A: No. Baptism does not add to your salvation nor is it necessary for salvation. However, it is the method of testimony to others expressed in the New Testament for those in the church.

*Q: Why do I need to be a member of a local church?*

A: The answer to this could fill a book. A commitment to Christ involves a commitment to His community (the church). As Christians we are part of the body of believers throughout the world. Also, it is apparent through the writings of the New Testament that we become part of a local body of believers for the purpose of ministry, encouragement, the study of doctrine, the sharing of the ordinances and the testimony to a lost world. To view the Christian faith apart from involvement and membership in a local church is to be contrary to the teaching of the New Testament.

*Q: I still have questions about baptism.*

A: Pick up a copy of the pamphlet entitled **Do I Need To Be Baptized?** here at the church. It will help answer your questions.

*Q: I believe that I have a situation not covered in this pamphlet. What do I do?*

A: Make an appointment to talk to our pastor, a staff member or a deacon. They are willing to help answer your questions.

## ***Critical Questions For You***

Have you come to the point in your life where you have received Christ as your Lord and Savior? (If you are unsure, please read the brochure entitled **What Does It Mean To Be A Christian?**)

Is the Lord leading you to be a part of this local fellowship for the purpose of honoring Him through ministry and service?