

# New Members Class Packet



## Introduction

Welcome to Beverly Park Baptist Church! At Beverly Park Baptist Church our mission is to transform our neighborhoods with the Gospel by displaying the love of Christ through Christ-centered worship, Spirit-led evangelism, meaningful relationships, and biblical instruction. Our chief aim is to Glorify God, Grow together, and Give back.

We are overjoyed that you have decided to covenant together with us in the Mission of Christ's church. Here at Beverly Park we focus on three basic things. You will see these things written on our walls, hanging in our offices, in our printed material, and in our words and programs. Here, we focus on the "three G's"

**Glorify God**

**Grow Together**

**Give Back**

This four week membership course is designed as an orientation to the life of Beverly Park Baptist Church: Who we are, What we believe, What we expect, and What we provide. It is our hope that in the coming weeks your love for God and His people will grow, and that you will be encouraged to step out as the minister that He has called you to be. We believe that this church can do great things for Christ, and that you will be a big part of it. We are so happy that you can join us on this great adventure with God.

*The Pastors and Staff of Beverly Park Baptist Church*

## WEEK ONE

# What does it mean to be a Christian?

We hold firm the conviction that local church membership can only be held by those who are Christians and thus are part of Christ's universal Church.

This then begs the question; What is a Christian?

We're glad you asked.

To answer this question we should look first at the pages of Scripture. How does the Bible describe and define those that we call "Christians"?

It seems that a close examination of scripture describes Christians in five Key ways:

Believer      Convert      Witness      Disciple      Disciple Maker

Believer: someone who believes certain necessary things about God and Christ. Someone who assents to proper doctrine, and takes the time to learn about God.

*"Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him"*

Hebrews 11:6

*"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation."*

Romans 10:9-10

Convert: Someone who has been changed by the power of the Holy Spirit from a sinner to a saint.

*"I assure you," He said, "unless you are converted and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."*

Matthew 18:3

*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Witness: Someone who is willing to tell others about Jesus; what He has done, and Who He is.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”*

Acts 1:8

*“then he said ‘the God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the sound of His voice. For you will be a witness for Him to all people of what you have seen and heard. And now, why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name.’”*

Acts 22:14-16

Disciple: Someone who is saved, and yields every area of life to the master’s (Jesus) wishes.

*“A disciple is not above his teacher, or a slave above his. It is enough for a disciple to become like his teacher and a slave like his master.”*

Matthew 10:24-25a

*“This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him: by keeping His commands.”*

1 John 2:3

*“My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.”*

John 15:8

*“These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Disciple Maker: Someone who is willing to teach others everything they know about God and Christ so that those in their care yield every area of their life to Christ.

*“Then Jesus came near and said to them ‘All authority have been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”*

Matthew 28:18-20

## WEEK TWO

# What does it mean to be a member of a Church?

Welcome to the second week of the Beverly Park Baptist Church New Members class! This week we will explore the idea of Church membership and what it means for your life. At this church we see church membership in terms of the 3 “M’s”: Member, Minister, Missionary. Here we begin to see membership as something beyond our own individual beliefs and convictions, and move into the area of corporate growth and responsibility. Each one of our Church members functions in these areas to engage and grow in the life of this local body of believers.

**Member:** a person who covenants together with other Christians to vocally and financially support the church.

**Covenant:** Deeply committed connectedness to one another. To develop close personal ties to other members and commit to support them and the leadership in fulfilling the vision of this Church.

**Vocally Support the Church:** to support and protect the mission of the local church through participation in Business Meetings and Committees, and by encouraging other members to lock step and participate in the life and vision of this Church.

**Financially Support the Church:** to support and protect the mission of the local church by giving financially to the local church. This is done through regular giving into the general budget, giving to meet the financial needs of those in our congregation and community in times of financial difficulty, and financially supporting global missions through our designated missions organizations.

**Minister:** Someone who works to meet the needs of the congregation and supports the leadership and unity of the church. You are all called to be ministers. The leadership of this Church is designed and commissioned to teach and train you to do the work of the ministry.

*“And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of the ministry, to build up the body of Christ”*

Ephesians 4:11-12

This begs the question “What is ministry?” Simply put, ministry is serving others in a Christlike way (Philippians 2:25-30). This is done by working to meet the Physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of those around you in the church so that Christ will be glorified (Colossians 1:1-14, 24-29, Romans 15:25-28, 2, Romans 12:9-21 Corinthians 9:10-15)

**Missionary:** Go out and bring the Gospel to the community as a fulfillment of the Great Commission Call. Our members do this in a variety of ways. Here are a few...

1. Inviting people to come to Sunday School and Church
2. Engaging in ongoing personal evangelism as a way of life
3. Participating in outreach through the church volunteer programs

While this is not at all an exhaustive list, it is enough to serve as a reminder to all of us that our focus as Church members is not ourselves and our own needs, but rather God, and the needs of those around us. The great commission of Matthew 28 takes for granted the “goingness” and love of the Christian life. As such we rely upon Jesus to take care of our needs as he uses us to meet the needs of those around us.

**Becoming a Member:** you can officially become a member of Beverly Park through one of three Ways:

1. Transferring your membership from another Baptist Church
2. Getting Baptized at BPBC
3. Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ

No matter which way you come in, all new members are baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are affirmed through a vote of the existing Church body at one of our regularly scheduled business meetings. At the beginning of the meeting the New Members are given the opportunity to speak to the congregation and give their testimony as an encouragement to the Church body, and then they are voted in. We do this so that everyone knows who our new members are, and the new members know that they have actually joined the Church. At that point you enter into full membership of the Church.

## WEEK THREE

# What is Expected of Church Members?

## Member Job Description for Beverly Park Baptist Church

Each member of Beverly Park Baptist Church will be expected to be disciple of Jesus Christ, supporting the work of the church through regular attendance, participating in the ministries of the church, praying for fellow members of the church and financially supporting the church.

Position: Church member

Area of Ministry: Supporting the work of church where needed

Accountable To: God, the Holy Scriptures, the congregation

Ministry Target: People

Minimum Maturity Level: Baptized believer in Jesus Christ

Spiritual Gifts: Exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy, prophesy, service, teaching, administration, discernment, faith, healing, helps, knowledge, miracles, wisdom, evangelism, pastor (list taken from Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4)

Length of Service: Until you unite with another Family of Believers or Christ returns

Responsibilities and Duties:

1. Love the members of the church (John 13: 35).
2. Faithfully attend regular church gatherings and meetings (Hebrews 10: 24-25).
3. Support the church financially (2 Corinthians 9: 6-8).
4. Share the gospel (Romans 10:14-15).
5. Make disciples (Matthew 28: 19-20).
6. Ensure the pure gospel is proclaimed (1 Timothy 6: 3-5).
7. Build up other believers in faith (Titus 2: 11-15).
8. Participate in the ordinances given to us by Jesus (Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 11: 26).
9. Exercise loving Godly discipline on other church members (Matthew 18: 15-20).
10. Glorify God (1 Peter 2: 12).
11. Grow together (Acts 2:44).
12. Give back (Acts 2: 45-47).

## WEEK FOUR

# What is Expected of and Provided by the Local Church?

## Distinctives

### *Ordinances*

**Baptism:** As Baptists we believe there are two ordinances that were given to the church by Jesus Christ. The first is Believer's Baptism. Baptist have always maintained that baptism is for people who have repented of their sins and placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. We do not believe that baptism saves a person. Baptism is a public declaration of faith in Jesus and the first step in obedience as His disciple.

**The Lord's Supper:** The second ordinance we observe is the Lord's Supper. Before Jesus was crucified He shared a meal with His disciples; during this meal He took some bread and broke it into pieces and told the disciples to eat the bread because it symbolized the breaking of His body for our sins. Then Jesus took the cup of wine and told the disciples to drink it because it symbolizes the shedding of Jesus' blood as a sign of a covenant between God and mankind.

### *Polity*

The word "polity" means government. BPBC has a congregational polity. That simply means that every member of the church has a vote in many church decisions. We firmly believe that BPBC is the members of BPBC and each of us should have a say in what we do. To assist us as a faith family in conducting the business of the church (i.e. making disciples, reaching the lost, meeting the needs of people, paying the bills) we have constituted several committees that oversee the day to day operation of the church. Every member of the congregation is eligible to serve on a committee. We have business meetings on the third Sunday of odd numbered months to report to the church and vote on items of business.

### *Missions*

BPBC is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention. This means that we voluntarily associate with like-minded churches for the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. BPBC works with other local churches through the Puget Sound Baptist Association.



BPBC is part of the Northwest Baptist Convention. The Northwest Baptist Convention is made up of churches in Washington, Oregon and Northern Idaho. Its focus is on reaching this geographic area with the gospel.

Southern Baptist churches give a portion of each offering to something called the Co-operative Program. The Co-operative Program is the largest missions sending program in evangelical Christianity. For additional information concerning your state convention, log on to [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) and click on state conventions.

Through the International Mission Board ([www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)), Southern Baptists support approximately 4,000 missionaries who are engaging 655 people groups, of populations greater than 100,000, around the world. New churches numbering over 1,364 are planted through the efforts of more than 5,000 North American Missionaries, whose efforts are coordinated through your North American Mission Board ([www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net)) and individual state conventions.

Six Southern Baptist educate in excess of 16,000 pastors, missionaries, and future church leaders each year.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is dedicated to addressing social, moral, and ethical concerns, with particular attention to their impact on American families and their faith. They also provide print resources that offer scriptural responses to the moral and ethical problems of our culture. BPBC has also historically been a sending Church for church plants. We have assisted in the formation of over 25 church plants, and are currently helping more.

### *BFM*

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 is the statement of faith for the Southern Baptist Convention and for our Church. Baptist churches, associations, and general bodies have adopted confessions of faith as a witness to the world, and as instruments of doctrinal accountability. We are not embarrassed to state before the world that these are doctrines we hold precious and as essential to the Baptist tradition of faith and practice. The BFM deals with [The Scriptures](#), God, man, salvation, God's purpose of grace, the Church, baptism and the Lord's Supper, the Lord's Day, the kingdom of God, the end times, evangelism and missions, education, stewardship, cooperation among churches, the Christian and the social order, peace and war, religious liberty, and family life.

## Support

As a member of the Southern Baptist Convention we have access to resources that would not be possible for a congregation of our size otherwise.

### *Convention wide resources*

Members of BPBC have access to a lawyer from the Northwest Baptist Convention, who specializes in will and estate planning. The Northwest Baptist Foundation (an arm of the state convention) has three Certified Public Accountants who can assist church members with tax issues at low and sometimes no cost. Southern Baptists have had a long tradition of providing education for the people. Currently there are 76 colleges and universities affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Each of these institutions have significant scholarships available to members of Southern Baptist churches.

### *BPBC Resources*

Here at Beverly Park we seek to meet the needs of each member as best we can. Along with expository preaching of God's word the pastoral staff has been trained in counseling to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of people and will help with personal and family counseling. We also provide premarital counseling before each wedding we perform. As a member of BPBC you may use our facilities for weddings, funerals, and other events at no cost. We believe that God has commanded Christians to meet the physical needs of other Christians. To assist us in this task BPBC has set up a food closet that is available to any member of BPBC and others in the community. We have "the Angel Closet" which provides diapers, formula, cribs, car seats, and clothing to families in need. On the first Sunday of each month we take up a special offering that is dispersed to members of the congregation who have a financial need.

## Leadership

We believe that God places men in local congregations who He specially gifts to lead that congregation. (Acts 2: 41-42, 47; 6: 1-7) We believe that the two scripturally mandated offices in the church are pastors and deacons.

### *Pastors*

The pastors of a local congregation are to (1) Preach the word of God; Acts 6:4. This is the primary focus of a pastor and all the other responsibilities flow from this. God has revealed Himself to

humanity through His word and it is through the proclamation of His word that lives are changed. Romans 10:14. (2) Care for the members of the congregation; 1 Peter 5: 2-3. The word pastor literally means “shepherd”. A pastor is to be the shepherd of the flock, the local congregation. The pastor is to carry out the work of a shepherd, feed the sheep, protect the sheep, care for the sheep who are injured, seek out the sheep who have left the fold and restore them, and reward the sheep for faithfulness and obedience to the owner of the sheep, God. (3) Train the congregation to do kingdom work; Ephesians 4:11-12. Every member of BPBC is to be doing the “work of the ministry”. Most of us feel inadequate to do the work of the ministry, so God has given us pastors who train us in how we can use our God given talents to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. God will judge pastors as to how faithful they were in these tasks; Luke 12: 42-48. The pastoral staff here at BPBC asks you to help us by holding us accountable to our responsibilities. The scriptural qualifications for a pastor can be found in 1Timothy 3:1-7.

### *Deacons*

The second office of church leadership we have at BPBC is that of the deacon. Our deacons are the front line in meeting the needs of the members of BPBC. Deacons are to ensure that the members of the congregation have what they need for life; Acts 6: 1-7. Our deacons are very diligent in their duties and desire to help in any way they can. Deacons are to, in every possible way, assist the pastors in the work and spiritual welfare of the church. The deacons also assist the pastors in administering the church ordinances. The deacon body meets regularly to ensure the fellowship and harmony of the church. The deacons of BPBC are charged with ensuring that elected officers and organizations are fulfilling their responsibilities as expressed in the church constitution and by-laws. Any concerns are to be reported to the church body. The scriptural qualifications for a deacon can be found in 1Timothy 3: 8-13.

## **Beverly Park as a Church**

### *History*

Beverly Park Baptist Church can trace its roots to May 24, 1952 in a meeting of the Tarrant County Baptist Association in Fort Worth Texas . On that day Dr. R. E. Milam Executive Secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon and Washington spoke of the need for churches in the Northwest. Rev. Tom Baird heeded Dr. Milam’s message and surrendered to the call of The Lord to come to the Northwest. In July 1952, rev. Baird rented the Southgate Masonic Temple in Burien

to begin a new church. There were 35 people in attendance for worship that first Sunday. On August 23, 1952 this group was organized into the First Baptist Church of Burien. In September of 1954 the church bought 3 2/3 acres of land at 11659 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. S. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1955 and work on the building soon began. The name of the church was changed to First Baptist Church of Beverly Park.

### *Ministries*

BPBC started as a church plant and we desire to be a church that starts churches. Currently we support and work with Two Bridges Church in Freemont. BPBC has a variety of ministries and ministry teams which are described in our Church Volunteers handout. All Church members are invited and expected to serve in these ministries to accomplish the mission of the Church.

## **Staff and deacons**

### *Staff*

**Joshua Davis** | [josh@beverlyparkchurch.org](mailto:josh@beverlyparkchurch.org)

Over the past 20 years Joshua has served in a variety of ministry roles as a College Minister, Associate Pastor, Youth Pastor, and Worship Leader. Joshua was a Professor of Theology and Hermeneutics as well as the Director of Staffing and Community Outreach for Seattle Urban Bible College.

Josh currently serves as The Senior Pastor of Beverly Park Baptist Church. He is married to his wonderful wife Christina, and together they have three children: Isaac, Barrett, and Virginia. Josh and Christina have the joy and privilege to be foster parents, and often have more children in their home.

**Zachry Schwiethale** | [zac@beverlyparkchurch.org](mailto:zac@beverlyparkchurch.org)

Originally from Port Angeles, Zac moved to Seattle in 2009 to attend college at Seattle Pacific University where he graduated with a degree in Visual Communication in 2012. Zac was ordained as Associate Pastor of Beverly Park in October 2017 and has served the youth of Beverly Park for over 4 years, heading BPY (Beverly Park Youth) and the Taco Tuesday college leadership ministry. Zac is skilled in multimedia technology and brings his giftings in this arena to serve the church. He is married to Kiri Schwiethale and has two kids: Noah and Noelle.

**Kiri Schwiethale** | [info@beverlyparkchurch.org](mailto:info@beverlyparkchurch.org)

Transferring membership from the KEC and a part of the Beverly Park community since 2009, Kiri officially joined BPBC in 2015 and joined the staff as Office Administrator in October 2017. Kiri also works alongside Zac in the youth and college ministries. As the Office Administrator, Kiri handles the day-to-day bookkeeping and bill paying, organizing, and updating of church documents. Contact her for anything to do with the business or logistics of the church.

#### *Deacons*

**Michael Grennan, Stan Doig, Pat Iverson, and Sam Kim**

## Volunteer Opportunities

1. Usher or Greeter
2. Committee Member
  - a. Stewardship (finances)
  - b. Nomination (volunteer recruiter)
  - c. Property and Space (building repairs, etc)
3. Offering Counter
4. VBS Worker
5. Children's Church Worker
6. Event Planner/Hospitality
7. Foster Care Support
8. Youth Group Worker
9. College Ministry Worker
10. You Tell Us! \_\_\_\_\_