



EBC Membership Guidelines

Membership Requirements

To become a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church (EBC), an individual must be able to satisfy the following requirements

- make a personal and informed confession of faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9)
- be admitted to the church formally or through other Pastoral-approved means
- be baptized (*via full bodily immersion*) either by this body or other duly recognized ecclesiastical body
- receive the right-hand-of-fellowship
- complete the new members class
- remain in good standing with the membership rules and regulations of the church

We further exhort and encourage all who become members to support EBC through

- financial and resource contribution* (*Tithe, Offering, Benevolence, etc*)
- participation in worship and prayer observances*
- participation in Scripture Study, classes, and workshops*
- participation in EBC activities, auxiliaries, and other sponsored initiatives*

** Required of any EBC member who holds the office of Pastor, Deacon, Trustee, Deaconess, Church School Superintendent, and Instructor*

Membership Classifications

There are two classifications of membership, **Active** and **Inactive**

Active members are those members

- whose whereabouts can be verifiably determined
- whose participation in the life of the church (*through worship, giving, and/or church-sponsored activities*) can be tangibly verified

Inactive members are those members

- whose whereabouts cannot be verifiably determined after a minimum of three (3) attempts throughout a calendar year
- whose participation in the life of the church (*through worship, giving, and/or church-sponsored*) cannot be tangibly verified

Current membership rolls shall be reviewed annually for review and reclassification of current membership. Members reclassified as **inactive** will be contacted to ascertain their current status. If no favorable reply is provided, said members will be placed in an inactive file.

Members classified as **inactive** are

- not entitled to vote on church-related matters
- not entitled to hold any office (*official or auxiliary*) within the church
- limited in their ability to receive support from the church

Inactive members desiring to return to active status must 1) notify the church office and provide current residency information; 2) meet with the Pastor to discuss factors contributing to said inactivity, and justification for restoring status.

Watchcare persons are a special classification of membership. Watchcare persons are defined as individuals who hold membership with another congregation, but regularly attend EBC due to residency constraints, or temporary obligations (e.g. school, employment, military, caregiving, etc.). Although they are classified as inactive members, they may participate in the various activities of the church, and function in any non-official church capacity.

Membership Standing

A member is in good standing when they are free from any current or pending church action that may impact their continued status as a full-fledged member. Church officers who have been removed or suspended from their delegated office may still be classified as members in good standing provided such action does not further impact their membership status.