

Membership Application Process

We believe that the Church is to be made up of those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord (Romans 10:9).

Anyone that is considering applying for membership to Burra Baptist Church (BBC) is urged to explore the privileges, opportunities, conduct, and responsibilities of being a member by reading our Church Handbook and Constitution documents. Also, you might find it helpful to discuss these things with the Pastor or other members of the Leadership Team.

As a Baptist Church we are committed to the practice of believers' baptism, i.e., baptism by immersion in water of those who express personal belief in Christ as Saviour and Lord. A person who has been baptised by another mode will be asked to consider the issue of believers' baptism and to support our practice as a fellowship (Matthew 28:19-20).

If, after prayerful consideration of our Church Handbook and Constitution, you agree with them and wish to apply for membership of the Church, please speak to the Pastor or a member of the Leadership Team for the application process to be started.

Interview Process

Any person who wishes to become a Church Member gives notice to the Leadership Team, who will discuss that at the next available Leadership Team Meeting. After prayerful consideration, the Leadership Team may then organise for two or more Members to interview the applicant (the chosen interviewers should not be close relatives of the applicant).

Interviews are essentially fellowship times where you will be asked to share how you became a Christian and why you now wish to apply for membership of BBC.

Other issues discussed at the interview will include attendance at meetings of the Church, small groups, stewardship, and your areas of interest and gifting, as they relate to opportunities for potential service within the Church family. You will also have opportunities to ask any questions about the member's own experience of BBC.

Those Church Members leading the conversation should be careful to listen, share, and discern within the life of the applicant in the following four areas:

- The story of the applicant, their profession of faith and their life journey with Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.
- The gifting that the applicant feels they can offer to church life, and within the vision of BBC, where they feel they can best serve.
- That the applicant is applying for membership with an understanding of their role in living corporately with mutual accountability for the life of the Church, its members and themselves.
- The applicant's willingness to faithfully fulfil membership obligations (see below).

It is important that this matter is approached in an open, sensitive, and positive manner, and with a proper understanding of the purpose of the conversation.

Interview Report

The interviewers would then provide a summary of the interview at the next meeting of Church Members. If the report was favourable, they would usually propose and second that the applicant should be welcomed into membership.

The members present at the meeting will be asked to vote, with a majority vote being the final stage for endorsing the application into membership.

Receiving into membership

Once the application is accepted, you would be advised and a formal welcome offered on the next suitable Sunday morning. This is usually the Sunday following the Church Members' meeting.

Further Information

Should you wish to receive any further information on the matter of joining BBC, please contact the Pastor or any of our Leadership Team members.

Systematic Giving and Gift Aid

As part of the membership process, our treasurer will contact you about the benefit of financial giving to the church through the Gift-Aid scheme.

Obligations of Membership (from BBC Constitution)

- 22 By joining the Church, Members will voluntarily submit themselves to the following obligations:
- 22.1 to attend regularly at the public worship of the Church, including the Lord's Supper;
 - 22.2 to contribute systematically to the Church's finances;
 - 22.3 to use their gifts and abilities in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ and of the Church;
 - 22.4 to maintain the spirit of Christian love and unity within the Church;
 - 22.5 to show evidence of their Christian character in every aspect of their lives;
 - 22.6 to share in the fulfilment of the Lord Jesus Christ's Commission to go and make disciples;
 - 22.7 to treat all matters private to the Church, including discussions and considerations at Members Meetings, as confidential; and
 - 22.8 to resolve any disputes with other Members in a private manner, by endeavouring initially to resolve the issue direct with the Member(s) concerned. Only after such initial approach has failed should the Member bring the matter to the Leadership Team to request its assistance in facilitating resolution. The Member should, in so far as reasonably practicable, not disclose the matter at issue to, or discuss it with, any other person, whether or not a Member.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE OF THE BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND

The basis of the Union is:

1. that the Lord Jesus Christ our God and Saviour is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws;
2. that Christian baptism is the immersion in water into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again the third day; and
3. that it is the duty of every disciple to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

PART 2**STATEMENT OF FOUNDATION VALUES OF THE CHURCH**

This church exists-

To build up believers in their life of trusting and obeying the Lord Jesus Christ

To reach out to those who have not yet heard or understood the message of the good news of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ