

First Baptist Church of Olney, Texas
Membership Interview Meeting
(revised 3.14.23)

The purpose of this document is to help prospective church members prepare for their membership interviews.

Our Membership Policy states:

*If, upon completion of the membership class, the candidate still desires to be baptized and join the church, they will attend a brief meeting with two members of the congregation (most likely a deacon and his wife). **The purpose of the meeting is to allow the candidate to share their Christian testimony, which is just the story of how a Christian person came to trust in Jesus for salvation.** Those who meet with the candidate will be the ones who recommend the candidate for membership at the next Church Reporting Fellowship.*

During the Church Reporting Fellowship, a vote will be taken on candidates for membership. Candidates who have been scripturally baptized will be admitted into membership immediately. Those who have not will be admitted once they have been baptized in accordance with our understanding of scripture.

1. We don't want you to be intimidated by this process. The interview is simply a time to get to know one another, share our stories, pray together and grow in Christ. Many people consider the membership interview the most meaningful part of the church membership process.
 2. We do not judge people for not knowing exactly how to word things. When we come to Christ for salvation and forgiveness for sins we don't have to know everything there is to know, we just want to make sure that those who join the church are trusting Jesus alone for their salvation, have repented of their sins, are striving to be obedient to the Lord in every area of their life, and are committed to growing and serving the church because Jesus is the Lord of their life.
 3. Everyone in the room will share their testimony, starting with the church member conducting the meeting. It is helpful when you share your testimony to read the following questions and then answer them. This will keep the testimony brief and on point. Everyone is free to share more of their life story if they feel it is important, but make sure at some point that everyone answers the questions about their profession of faith in Jesus.
- When, or how, did you come to understand that you were a sinner in need of forgiveness?
 - Did you understand at that time that there was nothing you could do to save yourself and that your only hope is Jesus? How did you learn this?
 - How did you hear the gospel?
 - How did your mind change from thinking your way of living was best, to believing that God's commands for living are best and that you will obey him as the king of your life? (Repentance)
 - Have you committed your life by trusting him to save you from your sins and to give you eternal life when you die?
 - How have you changed since you have trusted Jesus to save you?
 - What is the Lord doing in your life right now. Are you growing in the Lord? If not, what would help you to get back on track?

As the meeting concludes, spend time thanking the Lord for what he has done in each of you lives. Ask Him to show each of you how you might encourage one another in the days to come.