I. THE PURPOSE OF THE CLASS

A. To acquaint individuals seeking membership here at South more intimately with South Baptist Church.

B. To help clarify for individuals seeking membership here at South the truths of the Gospel and the ordinance of baptism.

C. To help prepare individuals seeking membership here at South for membership (sharing of personal testimony, interview with the membership committee, baptism, etc.)

D. To introduce individuals seeking membership here at South to such emphasis of the church, which are important for members to know.

E. To emphasize to individuals seeking membership here at South to the biblical duties of a church member.

F. To expose individuals seeking membership here at South to the opportunities for service within the church.
LESSON ONE – WHY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Church membership is a way for an individual to officially identity with a local group of Christ followers (a church).

A. Three reasons people don’t join a church
   1.) They were never encouraged to or given reasons to join a church.
      ☰ We want to encourage you to join and give you reasons to join.
   2.) There is no command in the New Testament to formally join a church.
      ☰ That is true; there is no command.
      ☰ BUT – Acts 2:41, 4:4, 5:14; 1 Corinthians 14:23
      ☰ It is clear that the church knew who was a part of the body and who wasn’t.
   3.) Membership is just a formality. “I’m committed to South. I don’t need a piece of paper to say it.”
      ☰ We believe that formal church membership is the best way in our culture to show commitment to the Church for which Christ died

B. Four reasons to consider church membership
   1.) Because of how God feels about His Church (Ephesians 5:25-32).
      ☰ It seems that God created marriage to illustrate His love for the Church
      ☰ Jesus loved the Church enough to die for the Church.
      ☰ If Christ died for the Church – it seems we should do all we can to show our commitment to her.
   2.) Because formal membership helps us as pastors best lead the church (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13)
      ☰ We need to know who it is we are leading, caring for, and who we will give an account for.
      ☰ It defines who is really a part of the church and who can be counted on.
      ☰ Certain ministries are limited to members.
   3.) Because formal membership is the best way to help you continue to grow in Christ and to protect you from straying (Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 10:23-25)
      ☰ Membership places you into a local body that God has equipped to build you up and mature you.
      ☰ Membership places you into a local body who will consider you and stir you up when you become stagnant in your growth.
      ☰ Membership places you into a local body to whom you are accountable and who will help you hold fast to your faith.
   4.) Because membership gives you a vote and a voice in the decisions of our church.
      ☰ We are a congregationally governed church where we ask membership to affirm the decisions of the leadership of the church.
LESSON TWO – SALVATION

We believe that church membership should be limited to those who have been saved by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior through faith. (Acts 2:47)

A. What the Bible Says About Salvation

1.) The Bible is very clear that every member of the human race is a sinner. (Romans 3:9-12, 23 - clearly states we all have sinned)
   (Romans 5:12 - for those who think they haven’t sinned, we still have a sin nature; Ephesians 2:1-3)
   * MAN IS A SINNER

2.) The Bible is very clear that the consequences of our sin is death – physical, spiritual, and eternal death.
   (Genesis 2:15-17 - God’s standard from the very beginning)
   (Romans 6:23 - God’s standard hasn’t changed)
   * GOD IS JUST because all mankind has the same judgment

3.) The Bible is very clear about the helplessness of the human race in light of sin and its penalty.
   (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:3-5 - no amount of good works can save us)
   * MAN CANNOT SAVE HIMSELF

4.) The Bible is clear that God, because of his love for us, has provided a Savior in the Person of Jesus Christ.
   (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1John 4:10)
   * GOD IS LOVE

5.) The Bible is very clear that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins with his sacrificial and willing death on the cross.
   (Romans 5:6-8; 2Corinthians 5:20-21; 1Peter 2:21-25; 3:18)
   * JESUS DIED IN OUR PLACE

6.) The Bible is very clear that man can only be saved (rescued) from his sin by repenting of his sins and accepting Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. (Acts 16:30-31- that question has been asked for some time and the answer is the same, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; Acts 2:37-38; 3:18-19; 20:18-21 - the idea of repentance and commitment; Matthew 16:24-25)
   * SALVATION IS BY FAITH ALONE

7.) The Bible is very clear that once a man is saved he is always saved and no one/thing can change that. (John 5:24; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1,31-39)
   * SALVATION IS SECURED FOR ALL ETERNITY
LESSON THREE – BAPTISM

We believe that church membership should be limited to those who have been baptized by immersion after salvation. (Acts 2:40-41)

✓ Baptism is NOT a SACRAMENT, which would imply that it conveys divine merit to those who are baptized.
   - Baptism does NOT give salvation, help salvation, or keep salvation.
   - Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and not works of any kind
✓ Baptism IS an ORDINANCE, which means it is something ordained by God for His people to do in order to remember and symbolize.
   - This ordinance was commanded (instituted) by Christ and given to the local church to be practiced (obeyed) – Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41

A. The Participants of Baptism (Believers Only)

✓ Believer’s Baptism: Only those who have repented of their sins and received Jesus Christ as Savior are to be baptized.
   - NOTE: There is no teaching in the Word of God that warrants the baptism of infants.

B. The Mode and Meaning of Baptism (Immersion)

✓ The Greek Word (Baptizo):
   - “Baptizo” literally means “to submerge, to dip, to bury, to sink, to immerse. (Luke 16:24; John 13:26)
   - The word “baptized” in the New Testament is a transliteration (an English spelling of the Greek word) and not a translation. If English versions of the Bible were to translate the Greek word, they would use a word like submerge or immerse.
   - The Greek language does have a word for sprinkling that is used in the New Testament, but not when it is talking about the act of baptism. (Hebrews 9:13)

✓ The Meaning of Baptism:
   - Baptism publically symbolizes the believer’s identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.
   - Only baptism by immersion clearly symbolizes that truth - being immersed in the water shows Christ’s death and burial, and being brought up out of the water pictures His glorious resurrection.
   - Baptism by immersion is an outward symbol of an inward reality - you
are saying, “My identity is with Christ, and this act of baptism is my testimony of my spiritual union with Him.” (Romans 6:3-5)

C. The Importance of Baptism (Obedience)

✓ The Bible is clear that baptism is an act of obedience. (Acts 2:38)
✓ The example of the apostles and the early church set a standard that we should seek to imitate.

D. What to bring and wear for baptism

✓ Bring...
  - Towel
  - Comb, blow dryer, and any other hair products you may need
  - Change of clothing (including undergarments).

✓ Wear...
  - We recommend that each candidate for baptism wear a pair of shorts and the South Baptist t-shirt (which we will provide). If you would like to wear a pair of pants that is fine.
  - Also, it is helpful to have a pair of flip flops or sandals as you walk to and from the worship center.
LESSON FOUR – ABOUT US

We believe that church membership should be limited to those who understand and are in full support of the church’s Christ-given mission and priorities.

A. The Church’s Christ-given Mission – Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)

1 According to the text, the mission of making disciples involves the baptizing of individuals in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
   - This instruction concerning the mission of making disciples involves the process of reaching individuals who are far from God.

2 According to the text, the mission of making disciples involves the teaching of individuals to obey everything Christ has commanded them.
   - This instruction concerning the mission of making disciples involves the process of growing up those who are already in Christ.

* SUMMARY: The church’s Christ-given mission of making disciples involves the church being equally committed to reaching people far from God, while growing up those who are in Christ.

B. The Church’s Purposes

1. Worship – Get Focused
2. Learning – Get Equipped
3. Community – Get Connected
4. Influence – Get Involved
5. Discipleship
B. The Church’s Values

1. **The Bible** – the church must value the Word of God so greatly that it becomes its absolute **authority** and the primary source of **transformation** in people’s lives. (II Timothy 4:1-5; II Timothy 3:14-16)

2. **Prayer** – the church must value the **power** of prayer, **expecting** God to do great things for the **glory** of his name. (James 5:16b-18)

3. **Worship** – the church must value Christ-followers gathering for **life-changing, whole-hearted, God-focused** worship with an eye toward **evangelism**. (John 4:21-24; Psalm 40:1-3)

4. **Community** – the church must value **authentic** community because it believes that life change happens **best** in small groups of people functioning **biblically**. (Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:19-25.)

5. **The Gospel** – the church must value the Gospel so greatly that it is **committed** to faithfully **sharing** it, so it may be **received** by unbelievers and **rejoiced** in by believers. (Ephesians 3:7; Philippians 1:27)

6. **Service** – the church must value each member functioning as a **unified** community of serving **contributors**, not merely spiritual consumers. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

7. **Growth** – the church must value **life-long** spiritual growth and therefore believes that an **increasing** devotion to and growth in Christ and His cause is **expected** for every believer. (II Peter 3:17-18; Ephesians 4:7,11-16; I Corinthians 3:1-7; Galatians 6:1-2)

8. **Relevance** – the church must value **cultural** relevance in everything its does within the parameters of **biblical authority**. (I Corinthians 9:19-22; Acts 15:8-11, 19)

9. **Excellence** – the church must value excellence because it **honors** God and **inspires** people. (I Corinthians 10:31)

10. **Generosity** – the church must value **joyful** and **sacrificial** generosity because it **reflects** the heart of God and **demonstrates** our dependence on Him. (I Corinthians 9:6-7)
LESSON FIVE – PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

We believe that church membership should be limited to those who desire to fulfill their personal responsibilities within the church. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

A. Responsibility #1 - Personal Spiritual Growth (Philippians 2:12; II Peter 3:17-18)

- **Personal Bible Study** - Faithful reading and studying of the Bible, on our own, puts us on a path to spiritual maturity and enablement to live a righteous life. (II Timothy 3:16)
  
  This happens because the following benefits are ours as we read and study the Bible:
  
  - It grows and strengthens our faith. (Romans 10:17)
  - It gives us understanding to this life and clear direction. (Psalm 119:105)
  - It gives us victory over Satan and sin. (Psalm 119:11)
  - It cleanses us as we obey it. (Psalm 119:9)
  - It convicts and corrects us when we disobey it. (II Timothy 3:16)
  
  The church provides some free resources to help you read and study the Bible. They can be found at the Welcome Center.

- **Personal Communication with God** - Communication is the basis for every relationship. Therefore, faithful communication with God through prayer puts us on a path to a closer relationship with God, which leads to spiritual maturity and enablement to live a righteous life. (James 4:8a)
  
  This happens because the following benefits are ours as we communicate with God:
  
  - It is a means to obtaining spiritual strength. (Luke 18:1)
  - It is a means of getting help in times of need. (Hebrews 4:16)
  - It is a means of getting peace that can in turn guard our hearts and minds. (Philippians 4:6-7)
  - It is a means of obtaining forgiveness of sins. (I John 1:9)

B. Responsibility #2 - Faithful Church Attendance (Acts 2:41-42; Hebrews 10:25)

The church is not a building, but people. It is important that we meet regularly with other Christians because there are certain things you need from the church, and other things the church needs from you.

In order to stress the importance of faithful attendance to church, the Bible gives us several benefits that come with being a part of a community of believers: (Ephesians 4:12-16)

- Faithful church attendance brings about personal equipping.
  
  - The church has the capability of taking that which has been broken in our lives because of sin and makes it right by restoring it very close to its original condition.

- Faithful church attendance brings about personal edification.
  
  - The church has the capability of building up our spiritual lives on a very sure
foundation, making them secure and strong.

✓ Faithful church attendance brings about personal **maturity**.

✓ The church has the capability of teaching the essentials of our faith and of the knowledge we need of the Son of God in order that we might leave spiritual infancy behind for spiritual adulthood.

✓ Faithful church attendance brings about personal **stability**.

✓ The church has the capability of anchoring us in God’s absolute truth so that we don’t fall prey to every counterfeit, humanistic, postmodern, or pagan truth.

C. **Responsibility #3 – Participation In a Life Group** (Hebrews 10:19-25)

God did not design us or create us to live in isolation but rather community. As a result, there is a certain level of spiritual maturity that can only be achieved through authentic, biblical community. This is because we are all...

✓ Prone to look into the mirror of Scripture and walk away without acting on what we’ve seen. (James 1:22-25)

✓ Prone to drift with the natural current of this world that will slowly and steadily lead us away from God and to sinful pleasures. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

✓ Prone to isolate ourselves when we find ourselves struggling with a sin and don’t want anyone to know. (James 5:16)

D. **Responsibility #4- Faithful Service Within the Church** (I Corinthians 12:12-31)

The Bible describes the church as the body of Christ. Each one of us makes up a part of the body. Therefore each one of us has certain responsibilities as part of the body. (I Corinthians 12:12-27)

✓ Faithful service within the church first requires a personal commitment of surrender. (Romans 12:1)

✓ Faithful service within the church also requires a personal commitment to not be conformed by this world but to be transformed through the power of the Word of God. (Romans 12:2)

✓ Faithful service within the church is made possible through our provision of spiritual gifts. (I Corinthians 12:1-11)

✓ Faithful service within the church is essential to its overall health. (I Corinthians 12:14-18)

✓ Faithful service within the church is essential for the spiritual health and growth of its individual members. (Ephesians 4:11-16)
LESSON SIX – PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

We believe that church membership should be limited to those who desire to fulfill their personal responsibilities within the church. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

A. Responsibility #5 - Promoting Unity (Psalm 133:1-3; Ephesians 4:1-3)
   - Unity is not and cannot be created by us individually or as a church, because it has already been created by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 2:14-18)
   - The unity that has been created by the Holy Spirit is an inner and universal quality by which every true believer is bound to every other true believer. (Ephesians 2:19-22)
   - It is our responsibility as believers to preserve the unity of the Spirit. (Ephesians 4:3)
   - Preserving the unity of the Spirit is extremely hard work because of what it requires on our part. (Ephesians 4:1-3)
     - **Humility** - the grace which makes one think of himself no more highly than he ought to think, thereby allowing him to, in honor, prefer his brethren over himself.
     - **Gentleness** - power under control, thereby allowing one to pass on the helping grace of God to another.
     - **Patience** - a remaining under or endurance, thereby allowing one to submit to the providential appointments of God till the end.
     - **Forbearing Love** - a longsuffering spirit, thereby allowing one to endure the evils of life with a calm and unruffled temper so that he might continue to demonstrate love to the one causing the evil.

B. Responsibility #6 - Spreading the Good News/ Being a Witness (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20)
   - A witness is one who has seen and heard something, and has been called to testify about it before others.
   - Being a witness for Christ should be more than an obligation; it should be a way of life for every Christian.
   - Making the responsibility of being a witness a way of life is developed by PI²:
     - Pray for those who are far from God that you are investing in
     - Invest in the lives of those who are far from God
     - Invite those who are far from God...
       - to church
       - to study the Bible together
       - to hear your personal salvation story
       - to accept Christ as their Savior and Lord.

C. Responsibility #7 - Support the Work of the Ministry (Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:8-10)
   - The church has been designed by God to be supported through the tithes and offerings of its people.
   - A tithe or offering is a public testimony to God’s ownership of everything in your life where, out of reverence for God, you share a gift to the church.
   - This gift should be one that is given:
Systematically (I Corinthians 16:1-2)
Sacrifically (II Corinthians 8:1-4)
Cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7)

We provide giving envelopes to help you give systematically, but only you can help yourself give sacrificially and cheerfully.

A HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH

South Baptist Church began as a mission work of North Baptist Church on November 1, 1922. Services were initially conducted at the Lincoln School building. The name of the church at the time was the Baptist Evangelistic Church. Rev. Clyde Baldwin was the first pastor of the church.

In May of 1923, a new building was erected on Belvidere Street. The following business item was recorded on the official church minutes of November 7, 1927: "Moved and supported that we change the name of our church, Baptist Evangelistic, to the South Baptist Church." Pastors who served at this location included Rev. Guy Harris, Rev. Clyde Baldwin, Rev. Fred Smith, Rev. Ralph Montague, Rev. Oscar Smith, Rev. A.M. Gibson, and Rev. Ewing Walters.

Outgrowing the facilities on Belvidere Street, South Baptist erected a new building on South Saginaw Street in 1946 with the dedication services being held on January 26, 1947. Reverend Ewing Walters was the pastor during this expansion period. Reverend Charles Paulsley succeeded Rev. Walters in 1954 and served until 1960. Reverend Kenneth Elgena began his ministry in March of 1961. Experiencing continued growth, South Baptist Church engaged in a new building project and moved to its present location on Van Slyke Road in 1967. A new Sunday School wing was added in 1968 and the gymnasium was added in 1978. In December of 2001, we completed the first phase of our Facility Expansion Program — a new Worship Center, lobby, and storage areas. The new Children’s Ministry Center was completed in September 2005.

Lead pastors who served during this time were Rev. Gordon Shipp, Rev. Leland Hufhand, Rev. James Collins, and Dr. Jim Vogel. Associate pastors included Tim Vermilyea, Irv Van Hooser, and Lee Kliewer as Ministers of Music; Gary Moosey, Russ Howard, Stan Manus, Mark Sigmon, Terry Madigan, and Wade Yocum as Youth Pastors; and Leo Griffin, Jim Collins, Sr., Brad Pellish and William Payne as Pastor of Outreach and Visitation. Cindy Johns and Stephanie Black have both served as Children’s Ministry Director. Pastor Larry Burk joined our staff in 1990, overseeing the music and worship ministries. Pastor Don Chapin was called to be our Student Ministries Pastor in November 2002. Pastor Scott Snyder became our new lead pastor in August 2010, and Matt Dieterle became the Children’s Ministry Director in March 2011. In October of 2012 Pastor Don Chapin was called to another ministry. This change led to a change in Pastor Larry Burk’s role. Instead of overseeing the music and worship ministries, he now serves as the executive pastor overseeing pastoral care, Life Groups, the office staff, and several other areas. This change also led to the hiring of Pastor Brandon Barnes, who presently serves as our Youth and Worship Pastor.
# SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH MINISTRIES

## CORE CLASSES

We offer a variety of Core Classes for all ages beginning at 9:30 am. Because we value life-long spiritual growth and believe that an increasing devotion to and growth in Christ and His cause is expected for every believer, these classes emphasize strategic, interactive, transformational Bible study.

## MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRIES

"It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High..." (Ps. 92:1)

We take worship seriously here at South Baptist Church! Worship is a part of our DNA....we were created to worship. It is through a lifestyle of worshipping Christ that we find our greatest fulfillment in life. In order to help Christ followers of all ages move toward this goal, South Baptist seeks to cultivate a culture of worship through many different kinds of ministries. Ministries such as choir, vocal & instrumental worship teams, Acting Up drama team, handbells, musical & drama productions, kids choir, kids chimes, worship services, congregational choir and special music are all designed to foster a passion for worship in the hearts of Christ followers!

## “ACTING UP” – DRAMA MINISTRY

Through the use of comic and dramatic sketches, choric read-ings, and reader's theatre, we endeavor to present the Gospel and Biblical principles in a fresh and dynamic medium. Worship drama is presented regularly in our Sunday morning worship services. Our major seasonal productions are presented on a rotating basis, including Easter Musical/Dramas, Dinner Theatre, Coffee House, and more. These involve a great deal of team effort and preparation including staging, set production, and costuming. These programs are presented as a tool for outreach into our community and as a means of encouragement for our own congregation.

## TECHNOLOGY & MEDIA MINISTRIES

Of all the things we want to excel at as a church, near the top of the list is effective communication. The truths of the Gospel and the Word of God change lives! God has called us to be effective communicators to people living in the 21st century. These truths are communicated through many different means. Technology and media assist us in our goal of effective communication. As a church, we want to take advantage of all the means available to us today to do this. Through an appropriate use of technology and media throughout our ministries, we are improving communication within the boundaries of our campus, while extending our presence around the world.
**BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY**

Our Benevolence Ministry was established to meet the special needs of those in the congregation and the community. An offering is taken following each evening communion service for this purpose.

**MEN’S MINISTRIES**

There is a heart for men at the core of our ministry here at South Baptist. The unique needs of men today, and the difficult cultural environment they must navigate through, make it vitally important that we do all we can to encourage all men to step up and fulfill their God given role today! Through a variety of opportunities, we want to see this happen.

**WOMEN’S MINISTRIES**

The purpose for Women’s Ministries at South Baptist is to move every woman closer to being a saved, connected, serving, reproducing disciple of Christ who is growing in knowledge and obedience to God’s Word. Therefore our Women’s Ministries plan and provide many events and ongoing ministries that give women opportunities for encouragement, growth, service, fellowship, and outreach regardless of what age or stage of life you find yourself in.

**CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES**

The Children’s Ministry is a passionate ministry, devoted to children and their families, in which children are biblically taught and strengthened in their faith by loving volunteers. The goals of the ministry are to help children develop a daily relationship with God, ground them in God’s Word, and give them the opportunity to discover and develop their God given gifts and skills.

**STUDENT MINISTRIES**

The Student Ministries at South Baptist Church are unique. We are fun and relevant, but also committed to the Bible and strive to separate ourselves from sin. It is our purpose to guide teens to Christ, ground them in their faith, so they will glorify God with their lives, give themselves to the work of the Lord and grow closer with the body of believers. There are several characteristics that describe the make-up of the Student Ministries at South Baptist Church. These can be summarized in a list of “Do’s and Don’ts” They are not activities that the teens participate in or refrain from, but guidelines that we purpose to follow.

**Do**
- Teach Biblical truth
- Reach the lost
- Create an atmosphere of love, acceptance, and fun
- Cultivate healthy social relationships
- Disciple immature believers
- Encourage Christ-likeness

**Discourage sinful worldliness**
- Develop individuals’ talents and abilities
- Train students for evangelism
- Equip students for leadership
- Provide opportunities for service
- Cooperate with families
Don’t
Expose or tempt students to sin
Jeopardize the emotional, physical, or spiritual safety of the students
Contradict the standards, doctrine, or mission of the church
Allow our good to be spoken of as evil
Prejudge others
Oppose God-established authority
Tolerate wolves among the sheep

COLLEGE AGE—YOUNG ADULTS

A ministry for young adults 18-25 years old. Various activities/events for outreach and fellowship are scheduled throughout the year.

GLOBAL OUTREACH

South Baptist Church is a missionary-minded fellowship of believers. We understand that our purpose as a church is to equip believers to have a worldwide impact with the gospel until the Lord returns. Because we believe that the local church is central in all missionary endeavors, we acknowledge our responsibility as a church family to be informed about missions and to be supportive of the specific work of our own missionaries.

LOCAL OUTREACH

It has been said that people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. This is why it is important to serve others in ways that practically demonstrate God’s love. Which is why we encourage those within the church to do this on an individual basis, and also why there are special times when we come together as a church family to participate in a variety of servant evangelism activities.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY . . .

There are seven steps to be taken to complete the process of membership.

1. **Attend an initial Exploring South Class**
   These are generally held on Sundays during the Sunday School hour (9:30 am) at different times throughout the year.

2. **Watch each of the video sessions**
   These can be found online at www.sbcflint.com/newmembers/

3. **Fill out all appropriate forms**
   These can be found online at www.sbcflint.com/newmembers/

4. **Meet with members of the Membership Committee.**
   Upon receipt of your forms, a time will be set up to meet with a few members of the Membership Committee. The meeting itself takes between 10-15 minutes and is intended to be very supportive and non-threatening. They will hear your personal testimony and answer any questions you may have about our church. To help you prepare for the meeting, here are a few items that we will be discussing:
   - We would like to hear your personal testimony of how you have become a born again Christian and your spiritual walk since then.
   - We are going to encourage you about attending church services, Life Groups, tithing, and using your talents/gifts in the church. Quite frankly, we hold this to be very important in developing friendships and "feeling connected" with the body at South Baptist Church.
   - We **will not** ask you to recite Scripture from memory, discuss doctrinal issues, and expect you to know the Bible from cover to cover!!
   These meetings with the Membership Committee usually take place on Sundays at 9:30am in Pastor’s office.

5. **Video record your salvation testimony.**
   In order for our church family to have the opportunity to get to know the new members coming into the family, we video tape you sharing your personal salvation testimony so that it can be played in the Celebration Service where you will be officially welcomed into the family of South Baptist Church.
   The taping usually takes place on Sundays at 9:30am in room 102.

6. **If not baptized by immersion, arrangements will be made for baptism.**
   If you have not been baptized by immersion since your salvation, you will need to be baptized during a Morning Worship Service, where you will be officially welcomed into the family of South Baptist Church. Pastor Scott will give you the final instructions and answer any questions you may have.

7. **The congregation will take action on your membership at the recommendation of the Deacon Board.**
   We would like you to be present at the service this action is taken so that we might officially welcome you into our church family.
Video Testimony

Being able to briefly share your testimony with so many is a privilege, but with that comes responsibility.

✓ Please do:

1. Write out what you are going to say (around 275-300 words). This will help you keep clear in your mind what you would like to say.

2. Stick to the outline
   - Introduce yourself – First and last name. (smile)
   - Your life before Christ (ex: I grew up in a Christian home and went to church a lot, but I never had a relationship with Christ, only a religion.)
   - How and when you accepted Christ – Be clear about who Christ is and what he did for you; also be clear about when you accepted Christ, even if you don’t have an exact date.
   - How He has affected your life – Don’t paint too rosy a picture because hard times will come, but Christ is living in your now so that you can face them.
   - Your profession of faith – As your wrap it up say something like this in your own words, “I’m here to let everyone know that Jesus is my Lord and Savior, and I am excited about joining the family at South Baptist Church to help others know that truth as well.”

✓ Please don’t:

1. Name previous churches. It is ok to name previous religions.

2. Say that you have “always been a Christian” as that is not possible. There is definitely a point where you accepted Christ. A point that you recognized that you were a sinner and in need of Christ to be your Savior.

3. Preach – that is what Pastor Scott is paid to do, so leave that to him.

4. Become too detailed about your past before you met Christ. Nobody needs to know all the details of your sinful past. Get the point across, and then move on. The focus shouldn’t be your past, but instead it should be Christ and what He has done and continues to do for you.

We look forward to hearing what Christ has done in your life.