**New Member Information and Orientation Packet**

**Beaver Dam Missionary Baptist Church**

**3151 Odom Road**

**Clinton, NC 28328**

**WWW.BDMBC.ORG**

**Rev. Adrian J. Bullock, Pastor**

**Pastoral Greetings**

Congratulations on making the wonderful decision to join Beaver Dam Missionary Baptist Church and, more importantly, on choosing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. We welcome you warmly into our church family. As pastor, my hope for you is not only that your name is added to the church roll, but that you become an active and engaged participant in the life of the church. For over 141 years, Beaver Dam Missionary Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in the Sampson County community, and with your involvement, we look forward to continuing that legacy for many years to come.

In this packet, you’ll find an introduction to the core beliefs of the Christian faith and the Baptist tradition. I encourage you, both during your New Discipleship classes and beyond, to use this packet as a resource to ask questions, grow in your faith, and find your place within the Baptist community.

Please know that I, along with the entire Beaver Dam Church family, am praying for you as you begin this journey. Be encouraged that we as a church are walking alongside you. We are here for you and with the love of Jesus, we welcome you to 3151! Feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Adrian Julian Bullock, MDiv

Senior Pastor

**Quick Facts for Beaver Dam Missionary Baptist Church**

**and**

**the African American Baptist of North Carolina**

* Name: ***Beaver Dam Missionary Baptist Church***
* Official Establishment Date: ***December 26, 1883***
* Address: ***3151 Odom Road, Clinton, NC 28328***

**Our Mission**

Our mission as the Beaver Dam Missionary Baptist Church is to positively impact the spiritual growth and development of each member by incorporating the disciplines of spending time with the Master, living in the Word, praying in faith, fellowshipping with believers, witnessing to the world, and ministering to others.

**Church Leadership**

Rev. Adrian J. Bullock, Pastor

***Deacons Ministry Trustee Ministry***

Deacon Timmy R. Butler, Chair Sister Rochelle Stuart

Deacon Louise Butler Sister Maxine B. Wall

Deacon Samuel L. Butler, Jr. Deacon Timmy R. Butler

Deacon Dixie Payton Deacon Samuel L. Butler, Jr.

Rev. Billy Thompson, Associate Minister

Deacon Timmy R. Butler, Church Treasurer

Sister Maxine B. Wall, Church Administrative Clerk

**Umbrella of Church Associations**

**National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.**

Headquarters: Nashville, TN

Rev. Dr. Boise Kimber, National President

https://nationalbaptist.com/

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**General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.**

Headquarters: Raleigh, NC

Rev. Dr. Ricky L. Banks, President

Rev. Selma Hunter, Interim Executive Secretary-Treasurer

https://www.gbsconline.org/

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**Western Union Missionary Baptist Association**

Headquarters: Robinson Chapel Baptist Church (Moderator’s congregation)

Roseboro, NC

Rev. Ronald Highsmith, Moderator

**Other Affiliations**:

**Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention**

**Ministries of Beaver Dam Missionary Baptist Church**

| Ministry | Ministry Leader |
| --- | --- |
| Audio and Visual Ministry | Brother Johnnie Butler |
| Deacons Ministry | Deacon Timmy Butler |
| Homecoming/ Special Programs Ministry | Deacon Louise Butler |
| Kitchen Ministry | Sister Maxine Wall |
| Men’s Day Ministry | Deacon Samuel Butler |
| Music Ministry | Rev. Lawrence Aycock, Bro. Barry Hayes, Sister Markeeita Lamb |
| Prayer Ministry | Sister Barbara Watson |
| Pastor's Aide Ministry | Sister Sandra Richardson |
| Trustee Ministry |  |
| Ushers and Hospitality Ministry | Sister Markeeita Lamb |
| Women’s Day Ministry | Sister Sandra Richardson |
| Youth Ministry | Sister Sandra Richardson |
| Beautification Ministry | Deacon Louise Butler |
| Nursing Home Ministry | Reverend Billy Thompson |
| Maintenance Ministry | Brother Johnnie Butler, Deacon Samuel Butler |

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**Key Elements of the Baptist Tradition**

* Form of Government: Autonomous/Congregational
* Congregational government is a form of church governance where the members of a local congregation are responsible for governing their own church. This means that the congregation has the power to make decisions about their church's programs, budgets, leadership, and worship. -*Moody Church Media*
* Two Recognized Biblical Offices in Baptist Tradition:

○ Pastor (Titus 1:6, 7; 1 Tim 3:2)

○ Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-12)

* Ordinances of the Baptist Tradition:

○ Baptism

○ Lord’s Supper or Communion

***These are ordinances because according to the scriptures Jesus***

***“orders” the church to do these acts within the Christian Church.***

* Difference between Sacrament and Ordinance:

○ Ordinances are not followed in order for a Christian believer to maintain their salvation. It is done however symbolically, following what Jesus Christ asked us to do in the Gospel writings. In the Baptist tradition, we believe in the ordinances of faith, not

sacrament.

* Priesthood of All Believers:

○ As Baptists, we believe that in order to speak to God we do not have to go through a priest or minister, we can personally go to God, on our own behalf, in prayer.

* What type of Baptism do Baptists believe in?

○ Full Immersion: The person shall be baptized, full bodied immersed in the water.

* The Process of Salvation- Romans Road of Salvation:

○ A: Admit- We admit that we are sinners, born into sin. (Romans 3:23)

○ B: Believe- We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins. (Romans 6:8)

○ C: Confess- We declare audibly, physically, and spiritually that

Jesus is **Lord. (Romans 10:9)**

* Do Baptist christen babies?

○ No, baptism is reserved for those who can articulate their belief that Jesus is Lord. When a child is of age, then they may make that declaration and be received through baptism.

**Process of Becoming An Official Member:**

1) Person requests to join either through salvation or join the church through Christian

experience. Information will be collected by the church clerk.

2) Person shall participate in new members' classes.

3) Person will be baptized if they have not been baptized.

4) Person will be given the Right Hand of Fellowship

5) Person shall be presented as a member of the church with all rights and privileges

**Membership Manual**

**CONVERSION**

It is always a good idea to look back over your conversion experience. What do you think happened when you became a follower of Jesus Christ? Are you unclear about anything? Could you possibly have misunderstood anything? Did anything happen that you might not be aware?

Let’s begin by celebrating your decision to follow Jesus, see if you have any questions and perhaps fill out your understanding of what just happened. The most famous passage in the Bible is in the Book of John, chapter 4, verse: 16. “This is how God loved the world: he gave his one and only Son so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life and not really die.” Let’s look at the different parts of this verse.

“This is how God loved the world.” God is the starting point. He created the world, loved the world, but the people he created decided to rebel against him (which the Bible calls ‘sin’), and the consequence of that decision was separation from God and eventually death.

“He gave his one and only Son.” The good news is that God gave his Son to die on the cross so that his death would pay the penalty for your sins and forgiveness could be made available. This is possible only because Jesus in not only the Son of God but is God himself. It is also possible because Jesus was fully human, and only the sacrifice of a human being can pay the penalty of human sin.

“So that everyone who believes in Him.” God’s offer of salvation is for “everyone;” it is not limited to any group. But salvation is only for those who believe in Jesus. Christianity is not a philosophy or a religious organization. It is a personal relationship with God made possible by what Jesus did on the cross. But it is not enough to simply believe certain truths about God; the faith that God requires is a faith that trusts not in itself but trusts in Jesus, that He is who He says He is and the He did what He said He would do. This means that we can do nothing to earn God’s favor but simply receive the free offer of forgiveness and salvation.

“We’ll have eternal life and not really die.” Followers of Jesus may physically die, but not really, for they live with Him forever in heaven.

But Jesus also wants us to count the cost before we decide to follow him. While salvation is free, it means that Jesus is our new master, and part of following Jesus is becoming like Him.

Congratulations. You have taken the first step. The power of sin is broken in your life, and you are now free to love and serve God.

**CHANGE**

When you became a Christian, you were aware that certain things were happening. Formerly you had been separated from God, not in relationship with him, but then you repented. Formerly you were dead but now you are alive.

But much more happened, even if you weren’t aware of it. Before conversion, did you know that it was God drawing you to himself, helping you understand your guilt and emptiness: in conversion God rescued you from the kingdom of darkness and brought you into his kingdom of light, forgave your sins, acquitted you from all guilt, freed you from all condemnation, redeemed you from the power of sin, made you holy, made you into a new creation, adopted you into his family, made you a citizen of heaven and gave you the gift of his Holy Spirit to live within you forever as a helper and a guarantee that you would receive the inheritance that God has promised.

With all this, it should come as no surprise that changed people will live in a changed way. Of course, your life is going to be different; it can’t possibly be the same because you are not the same.

The Bible uses many different ways of discussing this new life. Jesus says that we become His disciples, which means that we are His followers and learn from Him. Conversion is an important first step in this new life.

The Bible also talks about the “fruits of the Spirit.” Fruit stands for the changes that God’s Spirit is going to accomplish in your life, changes like love, joy, peace, patience, etc.

Don’t be frightened about these changes. God isn’t standing there with a frown demanding that you be perfect. But he will give you the desires to change and then the ability to do so. This change isn’t automatic; you can fight him, but why would you want to do that?

Another example that the Bible uses to describe followers of Jesus is that we are the “salt of the earth.” Life is going to be different; you are going to be different. Things are about to change in your life.

**LISTENING TO GOD**

When you became a Christian, you entered into a new relationship, and one crucial element of any relationship is communication, both listening and speaking.

There are several ways in which we can listen to God. He talks to us through creation. As we look at the grandeur of a sunset or the majesty of the mountains or the beauty of a flower, all of these are teaching us about God, his grandeur, majesty and beauty. We must learn to hear God speaking in this way.

But God speaks to us with the greatest clarity in the Bible; this is the primary place where we hear his voice and learn from him and about him.

There is much you will want to know about this topic. We believe that Scripture, another word for the Bible, comes from the very mouth of God through writers divinely inspired to write his word. It is therefore the authority over our lives, determining what we believe and how we behave. We believe the Holy Spirit watched over the process of collecting the books that we have in the Bible, and that these are the books God inspired, and therefore these books are absolutely trustworthy.

While these are important topics, the most important is what we actually do with the Bible. Four suggestions:

1. **Read it**. This is the only way we will truly know God’s heart, and when it is confusing we can ask God’s Spirit to help us understand.
2. **Meditate on it**. Some things take time to digest. We need to fill our minds with God’s word, reflect on it, and think it over.
3. **Memorize it**. If our minds are saturated with God’s word, if his words are on the tip of our tongue, we will often know how to face the challenges of life.
4. **Obey it**. The purpose of Bible study is not to accumulate information. It is to know the mind of God and gladly obey it.

As we obey the Word, we learn to trust it, and as we trust it, we are being transformed through God’s Spirit by God’s Word.

**SPEAKING WITH GOD**

Communication goes both directions; you both listen and speak. The same is true of your relationship with God. We listen primarily through reading the Bible and we speak with him in prayer.

Prayer is simply talking with God. You can pray anywhere at any time, short or long. When Jesus’ disciples asked him how they should pray, he responded with what we call the “Lord’s Prayer.”

The prayer begins by addressing God as “Our Father in heaven.” We can approach God on familiar terms, as our Father, while at the same time always remembering that he is in heaven, that he is the God who made the heavens and the earth. We pray with a balance of knowledge and respect.

The general pattern is that we focus on God. We pray that his concerns, his desires for us and the world, be met. This means that people see him for who he is, a holy God who is without sin. We ask that his sovereign rule in my life spread throughout the world, and that we will live according to his will. Prayer starts by putting God first.

Then we can admit our dependency on him by asking that he take care of us. We ask that he supply our daily needs for food, clothing, shelter, and other specific needs we may have. God is interested in the details of our life, even the little things. Never feel that you can’t ask him for the little things.

We are also dependent on him to meet our spiritual needs. We ask for forgiveness of our sins; and if we are truly sorry for what we have done, we will show it by forgiving others who have hurt us. If we don’t forgive others, God will not forgive us and our friendship with him will be damaged. We also pray that God keep us safe from evil and especially the evil one, Satan.

On a practical level, we should remember that prayer is speaking with God. We go back and forth between listening and responding. The encouragement is to read your Bible; and as things come to your mind, stop and thank God, or ask him for something, whatever the Bible prompts you to do.

These are a few good verses to memorize (The Lord’s Prayer). You can repeat the actual prayer as well as personalize it to meet your specific needs.

**LEARNING MORE ABOUT GOD**

When you became a Christian, there were certain things you knew about God, but it is important to fill out your understanding of God.

We can never know everything about God. There are many things that he has revealed about himself, but his ways will always be ‘higher’ than our ways, and his thoughts ‘deeper’ than our thoughts. This is called God’s way ‘beyond our understanding.’ Let’s examine some of the characteristics of God.

God is ***“omniscient.”*** This means God knows everything. He knows your thoughts before you say them; he knows the past, present and future. He is as acquainted with the movements of distant galaxies as he is with the number of hairs on your head. We will never, ultimately, be able to grasp God’s omniscience, but aren’t you glad he is omniscient?

God is **“omnipresent.”** This means God is present everywhere. There is not place where God is not present. It’s not that God is huge; he simply has no size. Omnipresence also means that God is not localized here, there, and everywhere. Rather, we exist in him. He is separate from creation, and yet we live, move, and have our being in him. What is even more amazing is that God exists in his fullness everywhere in creation. He is not spread thinly throughout the universe. We will never, ultimately, be able to grasp God’s omnipresence, but aren’t you glad he is omnipresent?

God is **“omnipotent.”** This means God is all-powerful, sovereign over all. God does all that he pleases. We will never, ultimately, be able to grasp God’s omnipotence, but aren’t you glad he is omnipotent?

The question then is how we are going to respond. And the answer is, we worship him. “ Worship” is defined as “our faithful response to ‘God’s gracious revelation.” Worship begins with hearing that God is, with what he has done, and it necessarily continues with our appropriate response to what we know about God. God reveals his holiness, and we respond by acknowledging our sins. God reveals that he is merciful and we accept his merciful forgiveness. God reveals he has a will, and we respond by asking how we can do what he desires. We can never let God become small and weak in our minds. He is without limitation in all things. May we respond accordingly?

**WHO IS JESUS**

The question “Who is Jesus?” is the central question of the early church and the foundation of the preaching of Paul. Our very name as “Christ-ians” shows that we are not primarily about religion but about the person of Jesus Christ.

There are many common answers to this question—all of which are incomplete or wrong. The fact of the matter is that everything in life and death hinges on a person’s answer to this question.

In Peter’s first sermon (Acts 2), we see him primarily dealing with this question. Peter shows how Jesus was a real human being while at the same time being much more. Jesus is “Lord,” which means not only “ sir” or “master” but also “God.”

The phrase “Son of God” is used repeatedly of Jesus, and yet we today easily misunderstand it. “Son of God” doesn’t mean Jesus was a created being or someone less than God. When the Jews of Jesus’ day heard the phrase, they understood it in their own language and culture as a claim to be God, and they tried to kill him for his supposed blasphemy.

The Bible also explicitly calls Jesus “God.” Jesus was “in the beginning with God and was God.” He is the only God. “I and the Father,” says, Jesus, “are One.” Thomas calls him, “My Lord and my God.” Paul calls Jesus, “Our great God and Savior.” While this language allows for the Trinity—that Jesus is God the Son but not God the Father—it clearly shows that He is God.

All of this is called the Incarnation. Jesus became flesh, being fully God and fully human at the same time. He didn’t merely appear to be both; He was both. If Jesus were not fully God and fully human, then He could not have died for our sins. A human death was needed for human sin, but only God on the cross could bear the wrath of God (the Father) as God (the Son) paid the penalty for all human sin. It can get a little confusing, but it is true.

In order to be a Christian, a person must believe both sides of the incarnation. We must believe that Jesus came in the flesh, and we must confess that Jesus is Lord.

This is the central question of our life: “Who is Jesus?”

**WHAT JESUS DID**

When John the Baptist saw Jesus he cried out, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” John is teaching us that Jesus was to die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. Sin against a holy god is a serious thing that is punishable by death, and yet God in his mercy accepts the death of an innocent sacrifice in our place.

Only the Lamb of God can take away our sin because only Jesus did something about sin. This isn’t Christian arrogance or superiority; it is the truth. Jesus claimed that only He provides the way through forgiveness to gain access to God, and only He died to make it happen.

Jesus’ death was sufficient to cover the sins of the world. This means that all who believe in Him can know with absolute confidence that their sins are forgiven. Jesus’ last words from the cross were, “It is finished.” This is Jesus’ promise that He did everything that was necessary for our sins to be forgiven and for us to gain access to God.

The temple curtain was also torn. The curtain separated the “Holy of Holies” from the rest of the temple. The “Holy of Holies” was the place where God’s presence dwelt. The curtain represents God’s presence among his people and yet his people’s separation from their God. That separation is now gone because of Jesus’ work on the cross.

The word “atonement” describes what actually happened on the cross. Now, the sins of all people are not automatically forgiven, but only the sins of those who respond by believing Jesus did in fact pay the penalty of our sins. We must respond in faith to the message of atonement.

The truth of the “gospel” message, the “good news” of Jesus, is wonderfully taught in a ritual of the church called “Communion” (also called “Eucharist” or “The Lord’s Supper”). In this we are reminded that Jesus’ body was broken for us, that His blood was spilt so that our sin can be forgiven and we can come into the presence of God.

**HOLY SPIRIT**

Christians are “Monotheists,” which means we believe there is only one God. But we are also “Trinitarians,” which means we believe this one God is at the same time three—God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Ghost. This ultimately is a mystery, but we believe it because the Bible teaches it.

The third person of the God-head (as we call him) performs two basic tasks. The first is his work in regeneration, the process by which we are given a new birth. This begins when the *Holy Spirit* convicts us of our sin and draws us toward God. In conversion he makes us into a new creation and then seals us—an example that means he marks us as belonging to God and protects us from the world.

The second basic task is called the indwelling of the *Holy Spirit*. In conversion the *Holy Spirit* actually takes up residence in our lives and assures us that we are God’s children, helps us to pray, guarantees our final resurrection and many other wonderful things.

Daily he guides us by showing us what is true through the Bible and prompts us to do what is right. He also empowers us, enabling us not only to hear his voice but also then to do what he is calling us to do.

One of the ways he empowers us is to give us what are called spiritual gifts. Every believer, at conversion, is given a supernatural empowerment to help meet the needs of the church—teaching, serving, encouraging, showing mercy, etc. The purpose of this empowerment is so that our lives change and we start to look more like Jesus. These changes are called the “fruits of the Spirit.” However, he will not empower us without our cooperation. We can fight the Spirit’s leading if we wish and suffer the consequences, but how much better to hear and obey.

Living life by the guidance and empowerment of the Spirit is a fascinating journey. It begins by our admission that we cannot live the life that God wants for us in our own ability, and then the Spirit is freed up to do his work in our lives.

Where would we be without the regeneration and indwelling of the *Holy Spirit*?

**WALKING WITH GOD**

When we became Christians, we were in a sense “babes in Christ.” But all babies are to grow up, and as we grow up we start to look less and less like the world and more and more like Jesus as our attitudes and behavior reflect his attitudes and behavior. The technical term for this is “sanctification,” the process of growth in Christ-likeness, into spiritual maturity, into holiness.

To help us grow, our all-powerful, all-loving God allows difficult circumstances into our life. When these difficult things happen, you might be tempted to think that you did something wrong, but it may be that God is doing something right. When we are in the midst of difficult circumstances, we often grow the most spiritually. Our faith is being refined and our character is being developed.

The question is how will you respond when the difficult times come? Not to be a prophet of doom, but all Christians are tempted to “compartmentalize” their lives. We think that if we hold back this part or that part of our life from God, then this will reduce the pain. You will be tempted to compartmentalize your time, to give some of it to God and to keep back the rest for yourself. You will be tempted to compartmentalize your money and your affections.

You must resist these temptations. When Jesus saved you from your sins, He came into your life not only as Savior but also as Lord, as the boss, and He wants all of you.

If you give in to compartmentalization, it will first harm your relationship with God; but this can be corrected by repenting—by admitting that God is right and you are wrong—and he will forgive you. If you don’t repent and if you keep on sinning, eventually you will lose the confidence that you truly are a follower of Jesus, because our assurance is tied in with the change in our life that God brings.

For those people who claim to have become Christians but who insist on living in constant sin, there are “warning passages,” which spell out the horrible consequences of living in sin.

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, calls us to grow up, to look and behave more and more like his son, Jesus Christ. It is part of the joy of the Christian life.

**WALKING TOGETHER**

When we became Christians, we did so one person at a time. We walked through the gates of heaven, as it were, one at a time. There is no family plan. And yet, when we walked through that gate, a family—a new father, new brothers and sisters, met us on the other side. This is our new community.

It is essential that this community become authentic and vital. There is simply too much at stake. Jesus told his disciples that as they become unified—one mind; one spirit—as they live out their love for one another, then the world will see and will conclude that God the Father did in fact send Jesus to earth to die for their sins. Not only do we have the joy of living in community, but also by so doing we are evangelists, showing Jesus to the world.

Because this is so important, it should come as no surprise that it is difficult to achieve. Many cultures are individualistic, fragmented, and isolated. (If your culture is not this way, you should thank Jesus.) Many of us suffer from having too many “circles of relationships” (e.g., family, friends, co-workers, sports activities). Our time is therefore divided and we do not have enough energy to develop deep relationships. We were created for community, but our business fights against meaningful friendships.

The model of the early church paints a considerably different picture. These early Christians were devoted to God; he was the center of their lives, spiritually and relationally. Christian community was not a social club or community center. It was their life.

But this importance of Christ moved out into many different areas. They grew in their spiritual maturity as they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching. They grew in fellowship as they made this one circle of relationship, the church, their central focus. They grew in ministry, in reaching out in service to their new family and also reaching out to those outside the family in what we call missions and evangelism.

This is all hard work. It begins with a central focus on glorifying God in all that we do and say. May I encourage you to simplify your life and focus on your new family. This is a counter-cultural way to think, just like Jesus was radical and counter-cultural.

Baptism is not necessary for salvation. It is the initiatory sign and seal into the covenant of grace. As circumcision referred to the cutting away of sin and to a change of heart (**Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4; 9:25, 26; Ez. 44:7,9**) baptism refers to the washing away of sin (**Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21; Tit. 3:5**) and to spiritual renewal (**Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:11-12**). Baptism is the circumcision of the heart as signified by the circumcision of the flesh (**Col. 2:11,12**).

One last thought: If someone maintains that baptism is necessary for salvation, is he adding a work, his own, to the finished work of Christ? If the answer were yes, then that person would be in terrible risk of not being saved. If the answer is no, they why is baptism maintained as being necessary the same way as the Jews maintained that works were necessary?

We would be remiss if we did not share with you that baptism and the Lord’s Supper are the two tenants that are the foundation of the Missionary Baptist Church. We, as members of this church, are bound to follow these ordinances to the best of our ability. Each of these is an outward symbol of an inward change in the person who comes to God through Jesus Christ.

## **CHURCH COVENANT**

The church covenant is a voluntary agreement by members of a Baptist church whereby they promise to conduct their lives in such a way as to glorify God and promote the ongoing of his church. Every member should study it carefully, refer to it often, and seek to live by it. It clearly outlines the obligations of church membership.

**The Basis of the Covenant**

The obligations of church membership outlined in the covenant are all scriptural, as seen from the following study:

**I. Salvation and Baptism**

* **John 1:11-12** He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:
* **Matthew 28:19-20** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

**II. Duties to the Church**

1. To walk together in Christian love
   1. **John 13:34-35** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

1. To strive for the advancement of the church and promote its prosperity and spirituality

* **Philip. 1:27** Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
* **2 Tim. 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
* **2 Cor. 7:1** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
* **2 Peter 3:11** *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

1. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine

* **Hebrews 10:25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is;* but exhorting *one another:* and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
* **Matthew 28:19-20** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.
* **1 Cor. 11:23-26** For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24And when he had given thanks, he brake *it,* and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it,* in remembrance of me. 26For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink *this* cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.
* **Jude 1:3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

1. To give it pre-eminence in my life.

* **Matthew 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

1. To contribute cheerfully and regularly.

* **1 Cor. 16:2** Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.
* **2 Cor. 8:6-7** Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. 7Therefore, as ye abound in every *thing, in* faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and *in* all diligence, and *in* your love to us, *see* that ye abound in this grace also.

1. To carry my membership when I move and be active in church work wherever I live.

* **Acts 11:19-21** Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. 20And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.
* **Acts 18:24-28** And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them,* and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. 27And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: 28For he mightily convinced the Jews, *and that* publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

**III. Duties in Personal Christian Living**

1. To maintain family and secret devotions.
   1. **1 Thes. 5:17-18** Pray without ceasing. 18In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
   2. **Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
2. To religiously educate the children.
   1. **2 Tim. 3:15** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
   2. **Deut. 6:4-7** Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God *is* one Lord: 5And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
3. To seek the salvation of the lost.
   1. **Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
   2. **Matthew 4:19** And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
   3. **Psalm 126:5-6** They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him.*
   4. **Proverbs 11:30** The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise.

4. To walk circumspectly in the world, and to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment.

* **Ephes. 5:15** See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
* **Philip. 2:14-15** Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
* **1 Peter 2:11-12** Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

5. To avoid gossip and excessive anger.

* **Ephes. 4:31** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
* **1 Peter 2:21** For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:
* **Col. 3:8** But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
* **James 3:1-2** My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. 2For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body.

6. To abstain from sale or use of liquors.

* **Ephes. 5:8** For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:
* **Habakkuk 2:15** Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to *him,* and makest *him* drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

7. To be zealous in our efforts for Christ.

* **Titus 2:14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

# ***IV. Duties to Fellow Members***

1. To watch over one another in love
   * **1 Peter 1:22** Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

2. To pray for one another.

* **James 5:16** Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

3. To aid in sickness and distress.

* **Galatians 6:2** Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.
* **James 2:14-17** What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? 17Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

4. To cultivate sympathy and courtesy

* **1 Peter 3:8** Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous:

5. To be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation

* **Ephes. 4:30-32** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

### **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

#### A person confessing a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and giving evidence of a regenerated heart, as well as, adopting the church covenant shall obtain church membership and views of faith as held by this church. There must be baptism by immersion in water by a minister of the Baptist faith.

Full membership also brings with it full access to church life. This includes participation in church ministries, fellowship, a full opportunity for leadership, and participation in all aspects of church life.

Individuals may be received into membership by any of the following methods and receiving the right hand of fellowship, at Beaver Dam Missionary Baptist Church:

1. By Baptism – an individual who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and adopts substantially the views of faith and principles of the Church may be baptized by immersion and received into the fellowship of the Church;
2. By Letter – an individual who is in substantial accord with the views of faith and the principles of the Church may be received by letter of recommendation from any other Christian Church;
3. By Experience – a believer of worthy character who has formerly been a member of a Christian Church having been baptized by immersion, but who for sufficient reason cannot present a letter from that Church, but who is in substantial accord with the views of faith and principles of this Church may be received upon a statement of experience;
4. By Restoration - an individual who has not been an active member of this Church may be restored to active membership upon the affirmative vote of the Church;
5. By Watchcare - an individual who is an active member of a Christian Church and who is residing temporarily in this community may be received into the membership of the Church for the period of their temporary residency.
6. By Outreach - persons who are confined or shut-in may request membership. When the request is submitted, the Pastor and Deacons shall visit and examine the person for membership. After which, the person will be extended the right hand of fellowship.

## **MODES OF DISMISSAL**

There may be times when it becomes necessary for a member to be dismissed due some extraordinary action on their part that completely goes counter to God’s Word and the teaching of this church. There are three methods that are used to accomplish this process:

1. Letter: a member may request a letter by which they may gain admission to another fellowship, or the new church may request a letter.
2. Exclusion: the church, by vote of the congregation after recommendation by the deaconate, may request separation of the individual as a member. This action will never be taken without careful reflection and prayer and strict adherence to the Word of God.
3. Death: the death of a member dissolves the relationship with the member and transfers the member from this church on earth to the body of Christ.

## **CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

In the most harmonious of churches, there are occasions when discipline among members must be exercised. Failure to do so may encourage illness within the fellowship of and weaken both the personal faith and strength of this church.

Sometimes individuals or groups within the congregation that have personal needs, spiritual immaturity, and/or private agendas may become disruptive or even fatal to the harmony and purpose of this church. Although this can be accomplished by many methods, the church will not condone this type behavior.

will take the appropriate action according to the following scriptures: **1 Cor. 5:6-13; 2 Cor. 2:6-8; 2 Thess. 3:6-15, Titus 3:10; Rom. 16:17-18; Matt. 8:15; Gal. 6:1**, and **Matt. 18:16-17**.

1. To stop the spread of sin—**1 Cor. 5:6-8**
2. To protect the testimony of Christ and His church—**1 Cor. 5:7-8**
3. For division—**2 Thess. 3:6,11, 14**
4. For immorality—**1 Cor. 5:9-11** such as fornication, covetousness, idolatry, slandering, drunkenness and swindling
5. For teaching heresy—**Titus 3:10** and **Rom. 16:17-18**