

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

Article I, Section 1 (Reception of Members)

A. While we hold that Baptism by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is a normative practice of faith expression in the New Testament, we recognize that it is not the only scripture-based expression and that Christian churches of different denominations hold varying Baptismal practices while expressing faith in the same Lord. Therefore, the membership of this church is open to persons who have:

- Made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord;
- Have been baptized by any mode in a Christian Church.
- Had a consultation with and have been recommended by the Pastor; and
- Been received by a majority vote of the members present at a Sunday morning worship service or a business session.

B. Candidates for membership may present themselves or be announced by the pastor following the private consultation at any worship service in any of the following ways, by:

- Profession of faith and for baptism according to the policies of this church;
- Promise of letter of membership from another Christian church;
- Statement of a prior profession of faith and request for baptism; or
- Statement of a prior profession of faith and baptism in a Christian church.

Any question as to qualifications or conditions of acceptance shall be resolved in the consultation with the Pastor and Deacons, with a recommendation to the church in conference as appropriate.

Article II, Section 1 (Baptism)

The ordinance of Baptism by immersion shall be administered publicly following an individual's profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Baptism may also be administered for those joining the church through a promise of letter or a statement of prior profession of faith who also desire to be baptized as they join. When extenuating circumstances preclude public baptism by immersion, deviations to this norm are permitted when certified appropriate by the Pastor and the Deacon Chair.