

International Baptist Church of Jurbise, Belgium

Membership Application

Why become a member?

“...You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household...” Eph. 2:19

- 1) **Personal sense of belonging.** By choosing to become a member, you are making a conscious choice to identify with and become part of this church family.
- 2) **Personal voice and vote.** Someone once said that attending a church without becoming a member is like being a spiritual “foster child”. Foster children can participate in a family, but they are never a full participant in the family with all the joys, responsibilities and legal rights. Church members are given a clear voice and vote at all business meetings. Members participate in the decision making discussions and voting on new pastoral staff, church leadership appointment, new members, church finances and major decisions. Note: Non-members are welcome to freely participate in all congregational meetings, but only members can vote.
- 3) **Personal significance.** Becoming a member will open up new opportunities for you to serve in significant ministry roles within our church family.
- 4) **Personal relationships.** By actively identifying with our church, you will enter into new meaningful relationships you would not experience if you stay on the fringe of our church family.
- 5) **Personal development:** By committing yourself to becoming a member, you will have a greater focus to use and develop your gifts, abilities and serving skills and leadership within our church family.
- 6) **Personal rewards:** Jesus Christ promises to reward us for our service for others. Your loving service within our church family will have eternal significance in your life and the lives of others. You will also experience the joy and reward of being part of what God is doing with and through our entire church family.
- 7) **Personal accountability:** By becoming a member of this church, you are committing yourself to a personal path of spiritual growth, Christian maturity and godly service. Through the relationships you choose to build, you will become more accountable to others in your spiritual journey.

Who can become a member?

Eligibility: This congregation receives into membership anyone who is born again through faith in Jesus Christ and professes Him before the world; who has reached eighteen years of age; who has a good reputation as to life and character; and who accepts the 2000 Baptist Statement of Faith and Constitution and By-Laws of this congregation.

What is expected of members?

Members should seek to become “fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ” as they...

- **Confess with your mouth that you have received Jesus Christ** as your personal Lord and Savior and that you have eternal life. Romans 10:9, John 1:12, 1 John 5:11-13
- **Commune with God daily** through scripture reading, prayer & following Christ. Matt 22:37, Ps 119:105, John 15:4-6, John 14:23-24, John 12:25-26, Luke 11:2, 1Thes 5:17
- **Celebrate God and hear the preaching of God’s Word** by participating in weekly worship service. Ps 145:7, Heb 10:25, Acts 2:42
- **Continue to grow spiritually** by learning God’s word and following God’s will. Ps 145:4, Prov 13:20, Rom 12:1-2, Ps 119:1-4, 2 Cor 5:17
- **Connect with others in loving relationships** by being part of a small group, class or ministry team. Heb10: 23-25, Num 11:17, Acts 2:42-47, 1 Thess 5:11, Gal 6:2, 1 John 4:11-12
- **Consecrate yourself to Christian service** with your God-given time, abilities, gifts, and desires. Eph 2:10, Rom 12:4-8, Gal 5:13, 1 Cor 12
- **Communicate the love of Christ** by word and deed to others. Mt 5:16, Job 11:18, Col 1:10, Mk 1:17, 2 Cor 5:19-21, Acts 26:17-18, Luke 6:27-31
- **Contribute your God-given resources by generously and faithfully giving** financially to God’s work at our church and beyond. 2 Cor 9:7, Prov 3:9-10, Mal 3:8-10, Deut 14:22, Acts 11:29

Members should...

Participate in Church Decisions Members shall participate in all congregation decisions by participating in and voting during congregational business meetings. Members shall respect the church decisions, properly made and binding; and, as much as in them and where the conscience is not violated, assist in carrying out such decisions.

Exercise Authority Active members reserve the right to:

- Initiate requests(s) at a Church council meeting. Requests so initiated must be acted upon by the council by, or at, the next council meeting.
- Change any and all rules and/or decisions of the council, teams, and/or committees at a duly called congregational meeting in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws.
- Nullify by a majority vote any and all rules and/or decisions of the council, teams, and/or committees at a duly called congregational meeting.

How do I apply for church membership?

Fill out and return the following information:

"I have received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord, and desire to become an active member and support the ministries of this church. Therefore I hereby apply for membership."

First & Last Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone*: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Code: _____

E-Mail*: _____ Occupation: _____

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Widowed Remarried

Church previously attended (name of church & location): _____

Family Members in Your Current Household	Relationship	Birthdate

Have you been baptized (date)? _____ If not, do you wish to be? Yes No

What way(s) do you desire to serve within our church family (based on your interests, abilities, gifts, and time)?

I have had access to a copy of the Baptist Faith and Message (2000) (go to: <http://www.sbc.net/bfm/bfm2000.asp>) and the IBC Constitution and By-laws (request from church office) and am in full agreement with them in both word and spirit. As a member of this church, I will abide by these documents, and seek to fulfill the membership responsibilities to the best of my ability, and will seek to please the Lord above all else.

Signature _____ Date _____

