



**EASTRIDGE**  
baptist church

*Church  
Membership*



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## WELCOME

Thank you for considering membership at Eastridge Baptist Church. We are excited you are interested in partnering with our congregation and leadership to serve our local body of believers and community, as well as the nations.

In an effort to inform potential members of Eastridge Baptist Church, we have written this short booklet. As you review this booklet, we encourage you to ask questions. If you come across areas for which you would like to have more clarification, our pastor and staff will be more than happy to assist you. As you read through the various sections, we would also encourage you to read the scripture references to help you understand why our beliefs are important to us.

## WHO WE ARE

We are a multi-generational thriving community of real people experiencing real life together. We seek to be the church every day and everywhere we go, as we live in community and on mission for Jesus. Our desire is to make Jesus' name famous as we seek to make “disciple-making” disciples who prize community and Jesus' mission.

All of our ministries are gospel-centered, striving to teach our members and regular attendees how to apply the gospel to their daily lives and how to share the gospel with others.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission at Eastridge is simple: We want to make Jesus' name famous by making disciples of all people's (Matt. 28:18-20).

## OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a church that exists in community and on mission for Jesus making disciple-making disciples of all peoples.

### IN COMMUNITY

We are a church that does life together. We care for and love one another as we seek to invite others into this community of faith.

### ON MISSION

We see ourselves as missionaries, seeking to make disciples “as we go”: to our city, state, and to the nations.

### ALL PEOPLES

Our desire is to reach all peoples of all generations and cultures with the good news of Jesus Christ.

### FOR JESUS

Jesus is the One we are championing. We desire for His name to be famous since He is our hope, our Lord and Savior, and our King.

### MAKING DISCIPLE-MAKING DISCIPLES



We work to equip disciples so that they are consistently following Jesus and calling others to follow Him as well.

## **WHERE WE CAME FROM**

The story of Eastridge Baptist Church is an exciting one to tell because it points to the hand of God on many lives for His glory and for the proclamation of the Gospel. It began in 1933 with the organization of Oak Cliff Baptist Church. Through God's providence and direction, the church relocated several times throughout the years. In 2000, the full worship ministry moved to Red Oak, TX, meeting in a temporary location as Eastridge Baptist Church. In 2002, the present facilities opened. Over the years, God has done amazing things through our church. Even as our church has experienced growth, it remains a warm, loving church where each person matters.

## **WHERE WE'RE HEADED**

Our church family will continue to focus on making Jesus' name famous in Red Oak, as we live in community and on mission for Jesus. Our desire is to see our community and our world transformed by Jesus Christ one life at a time.

## **WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU**

Your relationship with Jesus and others matters to us. Our church family truly cares and wants to see you and your loved ones enter into and continue to walk in a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

At Eastridge Baptist Church, we are a fellowship of believers who are united together by a common faith anchored in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. As a fellowship of believers, we affirm the following:

### THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 30:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

### GOD

We believe God is the true and only living God-the Creator and Sustainer of all life, who is known to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### GOD THE FATHER

We believe that God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving, and all-wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah

10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9;28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6;Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

## GOD THE SON

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, in oneness with God, and offers Himself as the only way to God. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, without an earthly father, and lived a sinless life. Following a short ministry of teaching, healing, and making disciples, He followed the course for His life and was crucified. On the cross, He bore the sins of all ages and claimed for each of us who believes in Him a victory over the power of sin. He was placed in a tomb, and as He prophesied, walked out of the tomb on the third day, alive and transformed. Following appearances before many witnesses, He was ascended into the clouds and is in Heaven preparing for His Second Coming.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33;16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15;7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

## GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is one with God and is actually the unseen presence of God living within each Christian. He instructs us concerning Jesus Christ and motivates and empowers us for service to God.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35;4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timo-

thy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

## SALVATION

We believe that salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ. That is the belief that He died for our sins, was raised from the dead, and is now alive. A person must confess his need for Jesus Christ and express a personal belief in Him. Once a person truly accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior, giving Him control of his life, he becomes a new-born child of God for all eternity.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12; 8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

## THE CHURCH

We believe that the church consists of all who have received the salvation of Jesus Christ and will be in His presence one day. We further believe that until that day, we are to assemble as a local group of believers to carry out the instructions of Jesus. It is to this smaller idea of the church that most of the New Testament applies when the word church is used. We further believe that the local church should consist of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have been baptized.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14,12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

## BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that baptism is the outward act of being completely immersed in water as a sign of having already asked Jesus Christ to be our Savior. This baptism does not have power itself to do anything to-

ward our salvation but is an important part of our obedience to the Lord.

We believe the Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

## IS CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IMPORTANT?

Absolutely! Church membership is vitally important to the life of every believer and to accomplishing Jesus' mission to make disciples.

The church is a family. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, God expects you to be a member of a church family. A believer without a church family is an orphan.

### SCRIPTURE SAYS THE BODY OF CHRIST IS...

*Part of who you are:*

- It is a part of what identifies individuals as genuine followers of Christ. (Eph. 2:19; Rom. 12:5)

*God's provision for you:*

- It provides you a spiritual family that can support, encourage and care for you in your walk with Christ. (Gal. 6:1-2; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Cor. 12:26-27)
- It provides you the community and accountability necessary to grow and live in obedience with God's design for His people. (2 Thes. 3:14-15; Eph. 5:21)

*Part of His protection:*

- It places you under the spiritual protection of Godly leaders. (Heb. 13:17; Acts 20:28-29; 1 Peter 5:5)

*A place for ministry:*

- It provides a means for believers to exercise their individual spiritual gifts, which results in the building up of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:7-16; 1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12).



## THE CHURCH EXISTS AS A COVENANT COMMUNITY

When you join a church, you are entering into a covenant with the church. You are making a commitment to love and serve the church body. Belonging is not just about you. It's about the body of people you belong to and how you will mutually support them, and they will support you.

In covenanting with its members, you agree to serve, minister to, and care for other members. In addition, you allow the church to care for you both physically and spiritually. In covenanting with the leadership, you allow godly leaders to care for you by looking after both your physical and spiritual needs. The scriptural picture is shepherds (leaders) caring for a flock.

### CHURCH COVENANT

Members of Eastridge Baptist Church hold to and abide by the church covenant, which is as follows:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred (family) and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the

world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment (behavior), to avoid all gossip, backbiting and excessive anger; to seek God's help in abstaining from practices that bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the guidelines of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we move from this place, we will, if possible, unite with a church where we can carry out the articles of this confession and the spirit of this covenant.

## HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

Those desiring to become a member of Eastridge Baptist Church may present themselves in any of the following ways:

- By receiving Jesus Christ as a Savior and Lord and following Jesus in believers' baptism.
- On promise of a letter of good standing from another church of like faith and order
- By their statement of having been converted and scripturally baptized by immersion
- By proxy, when, for valid reasons, they are unable to present themselves as candidates for membership

All candidates are to be presented to the church at a public worship service where their intent to join the church will be recognized and welcomed. Their names then will be presented to the church at a subsequent church conference<sup>1</sup> for a formal vote of the body.

Should a member of the church raise a question concerning the candidate's desire for membership, the issue will be referred privately to the leadership for consideration and review. The leadership's recommendation will be brought before the church at a subsequent church conference.

A three-fourths vote of the church members present at the church conference is required for membership in the church.

<sup>1</sup>**Church conference:** *The church will be considered to meet in "conference" in any meeting that has been publicly announced for such purpose. Further, the church may be "called into conference" at any regularly scheduled meeting in which a "quorum" of members is present.*

<sup>2</sup>**Quorum:** *Ideally, a majority of the membership will be present at regularly scheduled meetings or at a "called church conference." However, if a majority is not present, the leadership present may declare a "quorum" if a representative portion of the church body is present.*

## WHAT DO I DO AFTER I BECOME A MEMBER?

It is our expectation that you would contribute to the mission and vision of the church in several ways.

- **Give** — Our giving is connected to the mission of God. While God can accomplish His mission apart from our monetary resources, He has not chosen to do so. In fact, when we give, we actually participate in God's mission (Mal 3:6-12; Ga. 6:6, 1 Cor. 9:14, 1 Ti 5:17; Jas 1:27; 3 Jn. 5-8). It is our expectation, then, that you support the church financially.

*How much should you give?* A set percentage is not outlined in Scripture for those under the New Covenant. Instead, several guidelines are given. In Scripture, we learn that we should give cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2), regularly (1 Cor. 16:2), and sacrificially (2 Cor. 8:1-5).

- **Serve** — To be an effective church, we need every member to be actively involved in one or more areas of ministry (1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12:3-8). It is our expectation, then, that you use your spiritual gifts to serve the church.
- **Connect** — As a body of believers who exists in a covenant relationship with one another, we must gather together on a regular basis to encourage one another in our faith (Heb. 10:23-25). It is our expectation that you regularly attend worship services and participate in the small group ministries of the church.

## NOTES

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