

A group of people, including children and adults, are sitting on a green lawn. A large blue circle is overlaid in the center of the image, containing the text "BECOME A Church Member".

BECOME A

Church Member

“Give yourself to the Church. You that are members of the Church have not found it perfect and I hope that you feel almost glad that you have not. If I had never joined a Church till I had found one that was perfect, I would never have joined one at all! And the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have

spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect Church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us... All who have first given themselves to the Lord, should, as speedily as possible, also give themselves to the Lord's people. How else is there to be a Church on the earth? If it is right for anyone to refrain from membership in the Church, it is right for everyone, and then the testimony for God would be lost to the world!

As I have already said, the Church is faulty, but that is no excuse for your not joining it, if you are the Lord's. Nor need your own faults keep you back, for the Church is not an institution for perfect people, but a sanctuary for sinners saved by Grace, who, though they are saved, are still sinners and need all the help they can derive from the sympathy and guidance of their fellow Believers. The Church is the nursery for God's weak children where they are nourished and grow strong. It is the fold for Christ's sheep—the home for Christ's family.”

-Charles Spurgeon

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Portions of this packet were adapted from the resources of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Bridgeway Church, the Village Church, and GotQuestions.org.

What is Church Membership?

Church membership is a commitment to one another—to care, support, guard, and minister together for the building up of our church body.

As a church family, we want to call Christian men and women to a more genuine, authentic, heartfelt, and holistic relationship with other Christians that entails commitment and discipleship and provides us with a more effective means to display the glory of Christ.

We are asking you to join yourself to other Christian men and women the way that the New Testament describes. We are asking you to commit yourself to pursue godliness together and to live in relationships of mutual accountability and encouragement. We are asking you to identify yourself as a vital, contributing partner in this community of faith.

Our church covenant summarizes the New Testament teaching concerning how Christians ought to share life together. We are happy to commit ourselves in covenant one with another because God has made us family through Jesus Christ.

Cedarhome Church Covenant

Having been led, by the Holy Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to confess Him as Lord, and on confession of this 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 and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another, as one

body in Christ, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him.

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk together in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness. With this in view, we engage to strive together for both the peace and purity of this church to sustain its worship and steadfastly to cherish and hold its ordinances; discipline and doctrines; to contribute, as faithful stewards, such time, talent and money, in the measure as God prospers each of us, that the responsibility for the work of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the Gospel be faithfully and effectively discharged.

We believe that all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are called to a life of separation from worldly and sinful practices and should abstain from such amusements and practices and habits as will cause others to stumble or bring reproach upon the name of Jesus. A positive Christian life should include active participation in individual and family worship, regular church attendance and support, exemplary Christian conduct and witnessing to a lost world.

We further engage to give and receive admonition with meekness and affection; to remember each other in prayer, and to aid each other in case of sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offence, but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the Scriptures, to seek it without delay; to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return.

We moreover engage that when we move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some local church where we can carry out

the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

What Changes for Me When I Become a Member?

1) You are telling the Cedarhome church family and leaders that you desire to live in gospel community with us, that you support our beliefs, purpose, values, and leadership structure, and that you want to invest your time, talents, and treasures with us for God's glory.

2) The elders and deacons are telling you that we commit to your spiritual care as part of our church family. As leaders, we want to care for you personally. You will be assigned to an elder or deacon who will be praying for you and who will be available to you to contact if you have questions, concerns, praises, or prayer requests.

3) You have direct input on the direction and future of the church. This includes:

- a) Voting to select the church leaders: elders, deacons, and church staff.
- b) Voting on the annual church financial budget.
- c) Voting to admit new covenant members proposed by the elders. Also, voting to dismiss inactive members.
- d) Voting on any proposed revisions to the church constitution and by-laws.
- e) Voting on church disciplinary processes, if needed, according to the instructions of Scripture (e.g. Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Corinthians 2:5-8)

4) You can serve in a wider variety of ministry positions within the church. This might include:

- a) Leading a community group
- b) Serving on a ministry leadership team for the men's, women's, children, youth, finances, facilities, hospitality, or other team
- c) Serving in a teaching position
- d) Serving as an elder or deacon

Membership Process

- 1) Let one of our staff members or lay leaders know that you'd like to learn more about becoming a covenant member at Cedarhome!
- 2) Get More Information about membership! Please:
 - a) **Read this membership packet** in its entirety
 - b) Take one hour to **watch our statement of faith videos**: www.cedarhome.org/about
 - c) Sign up for a **membership class**. Classes are offered several times a year. The class will allow you to learn more about our church from one of our leaders.
- 3) Share your faith story with us!

When did you first trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? What has your journey with Jesus looked like since that time? Our leaders care about you and want to celebrate with you what Jesus has done in your life!

Schedule a time to share your story with our leaders! Email our secretary at (info@cedarhome.org). Please fill out and bring with you the one-page (double-sided) information sheet included at the end of this packet.

If you have not yet been **baptized** as a believer by immersion, then baptism is the next step in your faith journey (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 8; Romans 6). Our leaders would love to talk to you more about baptism if you have questions!

- 4) Church Affirmation:

The church family affirms you into the covenant community at a church meeting.

What is Cedarhome's History?

Cedarhome began with seven members in 1891 and was originally called First Swedish Baptist Church of Cedarhome. The mid-19th century Swedes who emigrated to America in pursuit of religious freedom read the Bible with a hunger that gave reality to their claim that it was Word of God, their sole authority. Theirs was a theology of "redeeming grace" that gave central place to Christ and the cross. Faith meant transformed lives as well as doctrinal truth, a commitment of heart and will as well as of intellect. They demanded a spiritually reborn clergy and membership. They believed in believer's baptism by immersion. And they had a strong conviction about living a holy life as followers of Jesus Christ.

The Swedish Baptist General Conference

These followers of Christ earnestly reached other Swedish immigrants with the lifechanging message of the gospel, and eventually organized as a fellowship of churches called the Swedish Baptist General Conference. Our early years were characterized by rapid growth.

The Baptist General Conference In 1945 the Baptist General Conference became the new name of our family of churches. Due to waning Swedish immigration, English had become the predominant language used in our churches, and more and more non-Swedish churches were planted and organized. Although U.S. demographics changed, the BGC's core values remained the same. As a missional movement, the BGC became a multiethnic, worldwide family of believers and churches: diverse, yet committed to the common mission of fulfilling Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:16-20) for the church.

Converge

Toward the end of the 20th century, the Baptist General Conference name began to lose its cultural currency. More than a fifth of all BGC churches had been planted within the prior 15 years, and a scant few wanted to identify

themselves by the name Baptist. They held to Baptist convictions, but didn't want to spend precious time refuting stereotypes of other Baptist leaders or groups. Meanwhile, the Baptist name put valuable missionaries and their national partners at risk in several countries overseas. Converge leaders saw the need to make a change.

In 2008 the board of overseers approved a new missional name, Converge Worldwide, while retaining the historic name Baptist General Conference in some settings and for legal purposes. The Converge name captures the strategy of starting and strengthening churches through the collaboration of 11 districts, approximately 1200 Converge churches and national and international ministries.

Copies of Cedarhome's constitution and bylaws are available on our webpage at www.cedarhome.org/about

What does Cedarhome believe?

(Adopted by the Baptist General Conference in 1951, reaffirmed in 1990 and amended in 1998.)

1. The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

2. The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

3. God the Father

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person,

that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

4. Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

5. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

6. Regeneration

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

7. The Church

We believe in the universal church; a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible confession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

8. Christian Conduct

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the

world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

9. The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

10. Religious Liberty

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

11. Church Cooperation

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary basis.

12. The Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

Why does Cedarhome exist?



Cedarhome Baptist Church exists to bring glory to God by making disciples of Jesus Christ through gospel-centered **worship**, gospel-centered **community**, gospel-centered **service**, and gospel-centered **multiplication**.

What are Cedarhome's Values?

The Gospel of Jesus

The gospel (good news) of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for sinners is central to everything we do at Cedarhome! We want to lean into the truths of the gospel as we rely on Christ to work in and through us for his glory. The goal of every sermon, Bible study, Sunday school lesson, community group, conversation, and prayer is to glorify our triune God alone!

Multi-Generational Friendships We celebrate and encourage multigenerational friendships and environments! Parents are welcome to keep their children with them for all or part of our worship services. Most of our community groups are open to the whole family. Whether you are one day old or 99 years old, we love you and value you!

Expository Preaching To preach the Bible most accurately and helpfully, we tend to preach verse-by-verse through one book of the Bible at a time. Preaching at Cedarhome is a time of worshiping God and growing closer to Him together!

Generous Hospitality

We want everyone to feel loved, valued, and safe here. We want to show generous hospitality to guests by warmly welcoming them, learning their names, and getting to know each other better over a beverage or meal.

Praying Together

Prayer, or talking to God, is vital to worship God, to confess our sin, to thank God, and to ask God to work in specific ways in our lives and in the world. As individuals and as a church, we want to pray without ceasing.

Encouraging Community

We want every person at Cedarhome to know others and to be known by others. In addition to worshiping the Lord together on Sunday mornings, we strongly encourage individuals and families to attend one of our community groups in order to encourage one another as we follow Jesus together with intentionality.

Gracious Discipleship

A disciple of Jesus is a person who has trusted in Jesus for eternal life and who is learning how to obey him with his/her life. The gospel of grace guides the content of our discipleship, the form of our discipleship, and the attitude of our discipleship. We do not seek to obey Christ in order to earn His approval; rather, we want to obey him, because he already earned God's approval for us through his death and resurrection.

Humble Service

Our Lord Jesus exemplified serving others at great cost to oneself. As disciples of Jesus, we want to serve others with Christlike humility. Whether we're cleaning the church, teaching Sunday school, playing a musical instrument, volunteering in the local schools, or serving at the soup kitchen, it is a joyful privilege to use our time and energy to serve the Lord by serving others.

Selfless Multiplication

For God's glory and the joy of all peoples, we want to make disciples of Jesus who make more disciples of Jesus. We want to make leaders who make more leaders. We want to make community groups that make more community groups. We want to make more churches that make more churches.

How Can I Grow in My Faith?



Growing in our faith in God begins with personally trusting Jesus Christ for salvation. Subsequently, we seek to glorify him as his beloved children through personal Bible reading, prayer, and seeking to joyfully honor

and obey him with our minds, hearts, words, and actions.

In addition, we believe that God has given us the Church as a means of grace through which he sanctifies us and transforms our lives. Three core environments in which gospel-centered discipleship takes place at Cedarhome include worship services, community groups, and discipleship relationships.

Worship Services

Worship services allow the entire church family to gather together for fellowship, to worship the Lord through singing, to collect our financial offerings to the Lord, to pray together to worship through the preaching of God's Word, and to partake in the ordinances of baptism and communion together.

Community Groups

Community groups are groups of 10-20 people that meet weekly, in which we seek to love and encourage one another, and to do life together as described in Acts 2: fellowshiping with a diverse group of multi-generational families, learning and applying God's Word together, praying for one another, and serving together.

Community groups are open year round to whomever would like to attend (as long as the home has enough room to hold more people). Leaders of community groups are appointed and trained by the elders and church staff.

Discipleship Relationships In addition to worship services and community groups, the Bible describes a variety of discipleship relationships through which God encourages and sanctifies us. Many of these relationships sprout organically out of already existing friendships. These intentional discipleship relationships might include:

- Meeting weekly with two or three Christian friends of the same gender for Bible study and prayer

- Discipling one or two new Christians through weekly Bible study and prayer
- One-on-one mentoring relationships with a Christian of the same gender
- Reading a Christian book together with a small group of friends of the same gender
- An older couple meeting monthly with a newly married couple for encouragement and prayer

Additional Ministries

In addition to worship services, community groups, and discipleship relationships, the church often facilitates ministries aimed at specific groups, including men, women, teenagers, and children. These ministries and programs are not a replacement of worship services, community groups, and discipleship environments; rather, they serve to provide fellowship and spiritual growth for a specific group of people, while also serving as “onramps” to the three core discipleship environments.

How Can I Serve at Cedarhome?

Serving others is a joy and a privilege for the Christian. Here are a few ideas of ways you can serve at Cedarhome. If you don't know who to contact about serving in a specific ministry, please call the church office at 6299771.

Church Property

- Help with Sunday setup/teardown/cleanup
- Help clean the church buildings
- Deep clean certain rooms/areas
- Mow the lawn
- Weeding
- Painting
- Help setup for baptisms
- Church van maintenance

Hospitality

- Provide meals for families in need
- Write encouragement notes to hurting people
- Prepare/deliver flowers for new moms
- Take goodies/gifts to first-time visitors
- Door Greeter on Sunday mornings
- Parking lot security

- Check in on absent church members
- Share your property/cabins for ministry use

Men's/Women's Ministries

- Share your testimony
- Provide food
- Reach out to new men/women at church
- Help with special events
- Provide scholarships for retreats
- Local service projects
- Serve as a mentor

Children's Ministry

- Sunday School teachers
- Sunday School teacher's assistant
- Junior church leaders
- Greeters / Hosts
- Nursery volunteer / Pray for babies
- Clean classrooms / toys
- Gospel Project Computer Person
- Help plan special events
- Watch kids at MOPS
- Childcare for special events

Ministry to/by Teenagers

- Sign up to provide snacks on Thursdays
- Sign up to bring donuts on Sunday mornings
- Drive for events
- Scholarship teens for retreats
- Volunteer with youth ministry
- Teens: Be a greeter
- Teens: Help with setup/teardown
- Teens: Share your testimony
- Teens: Help promote youth group
- Teens: Help with technology

Worship Music Team

- Play an instrument
- Sing
- Teach musicians

Technology Team

- Learn how to run the sound board during services
- Run ProPresenter presentations during services
- Run lights during church services
- Help to film and create promotional videos
- Help church with IT issues

Media Team

- Help create flyers
- Help manage church website
- Take pictures at church events

Prayer

Pray for prayer requests on church prayer chain
Pray regularly with a prayer group

Help in the Church Office

Computer data entry
Fold/stuff bulletins
Stuff envelopes for large group mailings
Make copies for Sunday morning classes
Special projects
Spreadsheets/graphs

Missions Ministry

Help host visiting missionaries
Write encouragement notes to missionaries
Join a short-term mission team

Specific Mentoring

Mentor an engaged or newly married couple
Mentor a new Christian

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Birth Date (mm/dd/yy) _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Mobile Phone
(_____) _____

Email _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Married YES NO Spouse's Name _____

Is your spouse applying for covenant membership also? YES NO

Children (*if more than four, please staple their information to the back of this application*):

Name 1 _____ (M/F) _____ Birth Date (mm/dd/yy) _____ Notes:

Name 2 _____ (M/F) _____ Birth Date (mm/dd/yy) _____ Notes:

Name 3 _____ (M/F) _____ Birth Date (mm/dd/yy) _____ Notes:

Name 4 _____ (M/F) _____ Birth Date (mm/dd/yy) _____ Notes:

How long have you attended Cedarhome? _____

What attracted you to our church family?

PREVIOUS CHURCH INFORMATION

Previous Church Name _____

Dates Attended _____

Were you a member? YES NO

Reason for Leaving: _____

Have you notified your previous church about your desire to commit to Cedarhome? YES NO

BELIEFS

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God, that He lived a perfect life without sin, that he suffered and died on the cross as the substitutionary atonement for sinners, and that he rose from the dead? YES NO

Do you believe that eternal life in Jesus is entirely a gift of God's grace, and that it is received by faith alone, not by works? YES NO

Have you turned away from evil, turned to Jesus, and trusted in Him as your Lord and Savior? YES NO

Covenant Membership Class Date Attended _____

Do you agree with the Cedarhome Statement of Faith? YES NO

If no, please explain: _____

Do you support Cedarhome's values, purpose, and vision as explained in the covenant membership packet?
YES NO

Have you read the Cedarhome church covenant? YES NO

Do you agree to its commitments, desiring to live in covenant community with the other believers at Cedarhome, pursuing holy living, actively participating in church life, seeking peace and unity within our church family, and submitting to the leadership of the Cedarhome elders? YES NO

Have you been baptized by immersion since Jesus saved you (not as an infant)? YES NO

If "yes," please list date and location: _____

If "no," are you willing to identify with Christ and His church publicly through baptism by immersion at Cedarhome?
YES NO

EXTRA INFORMATION

Ministries at Cedarhome in which you are currently involved: _____

What do you enjoy doing? _____

Are there certain ways you enjoy serving in the church? If so, how? _____

Please bring this application with you when you share your testimony with the elders.