

Baptism and Membership

The Relationship Between Baptism and Membership – Adopted 1995

Report from the Task Force on Baptism/Membership

Rev. Vic Winqvist, chairman of the Task Force on Baptism/Membership reported that the Task Force was created in response to questions concerning the admission of two new churches into BGC affiliation which had earlier been received into district affiliation.

The board of overseers presented the following statement on the relationship between baptism and church membership, for delegate confirmation: "We, the board of overseers, reaffirm the biblical mandate of believer's baptism by immersion and that it be a prerequisite for church membership as stated in the BGC Constitution. We further recommend that if, in the process of reaching people from diverse backgrounds, a local church establishes different levels of association for the purpose of allowing people to identify with a BGC church while they consider church membership:

1. "The church should affirm in its Constitution, Articles of Incorporation, or Bylaws, the biblical practice of believers baptism by immersion."
2. "A term other than 'church member' be used to identify these people."
3. Spiritual leadership positions (such as pastor, elder, deacon, governing board), the privilege of voting on constitutional changes, and the calling of a pastor be constitutionally limited to those who are church members, and"
4. "All delegates to district and BGC meetings be church members."