

HOW A CHURCH JOINS DENTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Introduction: Churches interested in joining Denton Baptist Association are encouraged to read the following sections from the Constitution and Bylaws that relate to membership:

Full Constitution
Full Bylaws
Membership Application

Constitution Membership Section:

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1 Membership in the Denton Baptist Association shall be open to any Baptist church that can work in fellowship with churches whose best expression of theological unity is any edition of "The Baptist Faith and Message," or a similar statement of faith adopted by the churches, and who desire to cooperate with other churches in the Association in carrying out the purpose of this body.
- Section 2 Cooperation in the Association involves participation in the ministry of the Association; involvement in the work of the Executive Board; submission of an annual statistical and leadership report; and the giving of regular financial contributions to the work of the Association.
- Section 3 Application for membership is to be made in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Bylaws.

Bylaws Membership Section:

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP

- A. Qualifications of Membership
1. An autonomous church or a mission of a current member church making application must be at least one-year old.
 2. The church must be committed to working in fellowship with member churches whose best expression of

theological unity is any edition of "The Baptist Faith and Message," or a similar statement of faith adopted by the church, and which desire to cooperate with other churches in the Association in carrying out the purpose of this body.

B. Application for Membership

1. Autonomous churches desiring membership must submit a completed application to the Association ninety (90) days before a meeting of the Executive Board. An autonomous church may be approved for a one-year provisional membership at any Executive Board meeting but may only be accepted for full membership at an Executive Board meeting following the completion of the one-year provisional membership.
2. A mission congregation of a member church must submit a completed application to the Association ninety (90) days before a meeting of the Executive Board. Provided that they have been a mission congregation of a member church for at least one year, they may be approved for full membership at any Executive Board meeting. If they have not been a mission of a member church for at least one year, they will be required to follow the same procedure as an autonomous church.

C. Processing Applications

1. The Membership Committee of the Association will meet with the pastor and leaders of the congregation requesting membership to determine their commitment to the Association and to cooperation with other churches.
2. The Membership Committee will recommend to the Executive Board regarding the acceptance or rejection of a particular church requesting membership.
3. The Executive Board will approve a church for either full or provisional membership based on a seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote.
4. Full membership entitles the church to the number of Executive Board members as outlined in the Bylaws. Provisional membership entitles the church to one Executive Board member plus the pastor for one-year period of provisional membership.

D. Removal of Churches from the Membership of the Association

1. When a member church has ceased to carry out its agreed upon responsibilities as a member of the Association

during a two-year period, or has become divisive by promoting among other churches of the Association actions contrary to the purpose of the Association as stated in Article II of the Constitution, or has changed its doctrinal position from that which is outlined in these Bylaws, the Membership Committee shall meet with the pastor and leaders of the church to determine the situation and to design a plan of action.

2. The Membership Committee shall report its findings to the Executive Board and may recommend either the removal of the church from the Association or recommend a plan of action to restore the church in fellowship with the Association.
3. The recommendation to remove a church requires a seventy-five percent majority vote. The recommendation to restore requires only a simple majority approval by the Executive Board.