

FREESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

Membership Packet

Welcome To Freestone Baptist Church

We are grateful for your interest in Freestone Baptist Church. Whether you are exploring Christianity, looking for a church home, or pursuing membership, our prayer is that you would grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ among us.

Freestone Baptist Church is a rural Baptist church made up of ordinary people from many walks of life:

- families,
- farmers,
- ranchers,
- medical workers,
- retirees,
- children,
- and young believers growing together in Christ.

We are not a perfect church, but we desire to be a faithful one.

Our aim is simple: To glorify God by making disciples through the preaching of His Word, the fellowship of His people, and the spread of the gospel.

What We Believe

Freestone Baptist Church is a historic Baptist church committed to:

- the authority of Scripture,
- salvation by grace through faith in Christ,
- believer's baptism,
- expositional preaching,
- meaningful church membership,
- and the sufficiency of Christ for all of life.

Our doctrinal convictions are summarized in:

- the New Hampshire Confession of Faith
- and the BMAA Doctrinal Statement.

While these documents help summarize our beliefs, Scripture alone is our final authority for faith and practice.

Our Core Convictions

The Bible

We believe the Bible is:

- inspired by God,
- without error,
- trustworthy,
- sufficient,
- and our final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

The Gospel

We believe:

- all people are sinners by nature and choice
- all are unchangeably depraved apart from divine grace
- salvation is found only through Jesus Christ,
- Christ died for sinners and rose again,
- salvation is by divine grace alone through faith alone,
- and all who truly repent and believe in Christ are forgiven and made new.

The Church

We believe the local church is:

- a covenant family of baptized believers,
- gathered under Christ,
- committed to worship, discipleship, fellowship, and mission.

The church is not merely a place to attend.

It is a people to belong to.

Baptism & The Lord's Supper

Baptism

We believe baptism is:

- for believers,
- by immersion,
- and a public declaration of faith in Christ.

The Lord's Supper

We practice close communion, meaning the Lord's Supper is intended for baptized believers walking faithfully with Christ and His church.

What Membership Means

At Freestone Baptist Church, membership is a covenant commitment.

Membership means we willingly commit:

- to love one another,
- encourage one another,
- serve one another,
- pray for one another,
- and walk together in faithfulness to Christ.

Membership is more than attendance. It is a commitment to live as part of a church family under the authority of Christ and His Word.

What Members Can Expect From The Church

As a church, we commit to:

- preach and teach God's Word faithfully,
- pray for and shepherd members,
- encourage spiritual growth,
- care for one another in times of need,
- pursue biblical unity,
- and lovingly practice church discipline when necessary.

What The Church Expects From Members

We ask members to:

- gather faithfully for worship,
- pursue holiness,
- preserve unity,
- serve the body,
- support the ministry of the church,
- receive biblical shepherding,
- pursue reconciliation,
- and seek to grow in Christ.

No member does these things perfectly. But membership means we are committed to pursuing them together.

Church Leadership

Freestone Baptist Church practices pastor-led congregationalism.

This means:

- pastors are responsible to shepherd, teach, and lead biblically,
- while the congregation affirms major decisions together as a church body.

We believe leadership should be:

- humble,
- biblical,
- servant-hearted,
- and accountable to Christ.

Church Discipline

Because we love one another, we believe church discipline is sometimes necessary.

Church discipline is not about punishment or shame.

Its purpose is:

- restoration,
- holiness,
- protection of the church,
- and the honor of Christ.

Whenever possible, discipline should be marked by:

- patience,
- gentleness,
- truth,
- and love.

Our Church Culture

We desire to be a church that is:

- doctrinally grounded,
- spiritually warm,
- practically faithful,
- and deeply relational.

We value:

- expositional preaching,
- meaningful fellowship,
- family discipleship,
- hospitality,
- evangelism,
- and genuine Christian unity.

We want Freestone Baptist Church to feel like: ***a church family that takes God seriously while loving people sincerely.***

Freestone Baptist Church Membership Covenant

Having, as we trust, been brought by Divine Grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other.

As members of Freestone Baptist Church:

We commit to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, exemplary in our behavior, and seek Christian unity by avoiding all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger. Amen!

We commit to strive for holiness in our lives, by refraining from any lifestyle choices that do not accord with scripture. Amen!

We commit to trust the Bible alone as the perfect authority for our faith and practice, as it is perfect and without any error. Amen!

We commit to assembling together regularly for worship and fellowship in order to know God better, worship Him together, and encourage each other in godliness. Amen!

We commit to continue the ministry of this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines and to support the ministry of the church, as the Lord leads, through the regular and cheerful giving of tithes and offerings. Amen!

We accept the BMAA Doctrinal Statement and the New Hampshire Confession of Faith as a summary of our doctrine and practice, yet understand they are, by far, secondary to the Scriptures themselves. Amen!

We commit to give God glory in all things as a church body in our personal lives. Amen!

The Membership Process

1. Attend & Get To Know The Church

We encourage prospective members to spend time worshiping and fellowshiping with the church family.

2. Membership Questionnaire

Prospective members complete a simple questionnaire sharing their testimony and church background.

3. Membership Interview

The pastor will meet with you to:

- hear your testimony,
- discuss the gospel,
- explain church membership,
- and answer questions.

4. Congregational Recommendation & Vote

After the interview process, members are recommended by the pastor to the congregation for affirmation.

Final Encouragement

We do not believe church membership saves anyone. Christ alone saves.

But we do believe the local church is one of God's primary means for:

- spiritual growth,
- encouragement,
- accountability,
- and perseverance in the Christian life.

Our prayer is that Freestone Baptist Church would be a place where:

- Christ is treasured,
- Scripture is honored,
- families are strengthened,
- sinners are welcomed,
- and believers are faithfully shepherded for the glory of God.