

Arcadia Chinese Baptist Church

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name (English) _____ DOB: _____ Gender: _____
(Chinese) _____ Email: _____
Address: _____
(City) _____, (State) _____, (Zip) _____
Telephone (Home): _____ (Cell): _____
Email Address: _____
Occupation: _____
Marital Status: Single _____, Married _____, Divorced _____, Widowed _____
If married, name of spouse: _____ Christian? Yes _____, No _____
Time and Place of Your Salvation: _____
Baptized By: _____ at what Church? _____
Name and Address of church transferred from:
(Name of Church) _____
(Address of Church) _____
Past Experience in Serving the Lord: _____
Promise to Keep the Lord's Day _____, Promise to Tithe _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PROCEDURE TO ACCEPTANCE TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. **Make a public decision during worship service to join the church;**
2. **Fill out the application for membership and consent to church beliefs statement and church covenant;**
3. **Write personal salvation testimony;**
4. **If this is joining by transferring of a letter, the applicant needs to ask previous church for a letter of recommendation;**
5. **If the applicant was baptized by sprinkling or any other ceremony other than immersion, the applicant needs to be baptized by immersion by this church in order to join as a member;**
6. **Finish all paper work, interview with pastoral staff;**
7. **Recommended by pastoral staff to church council;**
8. **Recommended by church council to church business meeting and receive majority votes;**
9. **Fill out church membership card. Now you have become a formal member.**

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord 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, and this assembly, most solemnly and joy fully enter into 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, Holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, Support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid of tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the excessive use of intoxicating beverages, or any activities that will a stumbling block to any other individual(s); to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

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 Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offensive, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we relocate we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

I have read the church covenant and I am in agreement with this commitment to church unity to serve the Lord. ("Endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body ,and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith , one baptism, on God and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all."—Ephesians 4:3-6)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, supernaturally inspired, so that it is inerrant in the original manuscripts and preserved by God in its verbal, plenary inspiration, so that it is divinely authoritative standard for all human conduct in every age. The Holy Scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation. (II Timothy 3:15-16; I Peter 1:23, 25; II Peter 1:20-21; Romans 16:25-26; Psalm 119:89, 140; Psalm 12:6)

We believe that the Godhead exists eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and that these three are one God. (Romans 1:20; John 1:1; 10:30; I Corinthians 8:6; II Corinthians 3:17; Acts 5:3, 4; I John 5:7)

We believe that the universe was created by God. We believe that human being was created by God and has an innate need to know, worship and serve Him. (Genesis 1:1, 27; Psalm 150:6; Matthew 22:37-38; Deuteronomy 6:5)

We believe that Jesus Christ in the flesh was both God and man, that He was born of a virgin and that he lived a sinless life, in which He taught and wrought many miracles, that He was crucified, died as a penalty for our sins and was raised from the dead bodily on the third day. Later He ascended to heaven, and from whence He is coming again bodily, personally, and visibly to judge this earth and set up His glorious kingdom. (John 1:1, 14; II Corinthians 5:19; Matthew 1:20-23; Hebrews 4:14, 15; Acts 2:22-24; I Corinthians 15:3, 4; Revelation 20:1-15)

We believe that Jesus Christ, by His death, made a perfect atonement for sin, redeeming us from the judgment of God. As a result, every believer is saved by faith alone and justified on the simple and single ground of the shed blood of Jesus. (Romans 5:1, 8-10; Ephesians 1:7)

We believe that such salvation with its forgiveness of sins, its impartation of the Holy Spirit and its hope of eternal life, is entirely apart from good works or human efforts, but is of the pure grace of God. (Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 6:63; 7:37-39; Galatians 3:11)

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person in the Godhead. He is the spirit of God and also the spirit of Christ. The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest Jesus Christ. It is also by the work of the Holy that human beings are brought to the saving knowledge of Christ, the new and eternal life, conviction of sin, and peace, comfort and guidance in daily living. (John 15:26, 16:7-15; II Corinthians 3:17; I Peter 1:2, 11)

We believe that Christ is the head of the church and the church is His body, constituted by those saved and born again through the Holy Spirit. Thus the believers are members of the same body. The primary functions of the church are to worship God, proclaim the gospel, teach and train believers to be disciples, and have fellowship together. (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:11-16; I Corinthians 12:12, 13, 18, 27)

*I have read the above statement of faith and am in agreement with the doctrinal beliefs of this church.
(“Con two walk together, except they be agreed?” – Amos 3:3)*

Signed: _____ Date: _____

My Personal Testimony
(Acts 1:8; I Peter 3:15)

1. What was my life like before I discovered Christ?

2. How did I become aware of my need for salvation?

3. What influence my decision to accept Christ as Savior?

4. What has Christ done in my life since I was converted?

5. What is Christ doing in my life today?

Guidelines, helps, and hints, for writing of your conversion of you salvation!
“WHEN GOD TRANSFORMS A LIFE, THERE IS ALWAYS A TESTIMONY”

Our testimonies may not be as dramatic as St. Paul’s, but they still stand as monuments of divine grace. Because of this, we need to share our conversion stories, lighting the path of faith for non-Christians (not to glory in our selves) as well as encouraging the spiritual sojourn of fellow believers. Below are some guidelines that can help you give YOUR TESTIMONY in an effective way. Pray and ask Jesus, that the Holy Spirit guide you in writing your testimony so it may glorify Jesus and might bring someone into the Kingdom of God.

1. **Don’t preach – just Talk.** Let your story speak for itself. Tell the truth.
2. **Don’t generalize – be specific.** Name places, describe circumstances, identify feelings, share thoughts...communicate those elements that led up to, happened during, and followed your turn to Christ. You never know what God will use to soften stubborn wills and strengthen faint hearts.
3. **Don’t be vague and mystical – be clear and simple.** Stay away from Christian lingo. Use language that any body can understand, even those who have never heard about Christianity. LET YOUR TESTIMONY BE CLEAR AND SIMPLE.
4. **Don’t defend yourself – just declare your story.** People may try to explain away your conversion, or they may simply reject it. You are not responsible for their reaction. All God asks you to do is tell how He changed your life. The rest is up to Him.
5. **Keep your testimony brief.** Paul tells his story in twelve verses. You should be able to give yours in a few minutes.
6. **Follow a logical progression.** Start with your life before Christ, move to the moment of your conversion, and then tell how Christ has changed your life.
7. **GLORIFY GOD, NOT YOURSELF.** Although you are a primary actor in your conversion story, God is the star, the writer, and the director. Make this clear so the he gets the applause, not you. (see Gal. 1:24)

Share your testimony with a non-Christian sometime during the next week. God may use your story to begin yet another one that will eternally glorify Him.

VALUES & PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE US TO FULFILL OUR VISION

(I Corinthians 9:24-27)

1. **WE VALUE GOD.** Therefore we make a **Commitment to God and His Great purpose.**

To help people everywhere come to have a genuine Salvation experience with God through faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work of salvation on the cross. (Redemption) This is a one-time decision that encompasses all of our life. (Eph. 2:8-10; Rom. 10:9-10, 13) We minister God's saving grace first to those who come to our church and reach out to the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8)

2. **WE VALUE FAMILY.** Therefore we make a **Commitment to our Family.** (I Tim. 5:8)

A commitment to God's vision and values for our church will enable us to succeed as children and youth in our Parent-Child relationships; succeed as young adults in our career relationships; and succeed in starting and building our own families (successful courtship, marriage, and parenthood).

3. **WE VALUE THE CHURCH.** Thus we make a **Commitment to the Lord's Church (God's Family).**

We experience the Challenges, joys, fulfillment, and rewards of servant leadership and teamwork (Matt. 20:25-28). We serve God's people with honesty, integrity and respect. Jesus said, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:40). How much do you love Jesus? (I John 4:20-21)

4. **WE VALUE WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH.** Therefore we make a **Commitment to Glorify god in Worship** (John 4:23-24)

We offer to all who attend a variety of scriptural worship experiences that are God focused. (Adoration and awe for who God is and Praise and Thanksgiving for what He has done) We want everyone to meet with Jesus everytime we worship.

5. **WE VALUE CHARACTER.** Therefore we make **Commitment to Grow.**

I will pray for and pursue my own spiritual growth as an individual in my relationship with God and other. (Sanctification) This is the foundation for a successful career and family life.

I will pray for and pursue the growth of our church both spiritually and numerically. (Eph. 4:12-16) This is the foundation for accomplishing our God given Mission in life.

In pursuing these goals I will make a commitment to always try and do what is honest and right.

6. **WE VALUE LOVE.** Therefore we make a **Commitment to be Givers.**

Give myself to God's purposes (II Cor. 8:5). My availability and flexibility is more important than my natural abilities. (I will find my spiritual gift and use it to serve God.)

Give my time to God's purposes (Eph. 5:15-17). I will set my priorities under the guidance of God's word and Holy Spirit.

Give my wealth to God's Purposes. True wealth and prosperity is dependant upon the realization that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the father of lights..."(James 1:17)

I want to invest my wealth in things that will last for eternity (II Cor. 4:18; Luke 12:15-21)
Everything belongs to Him. Growing in love is all about giving!

The love of Christ constraineth us to be givers (II Cor. 5:14)

Note: Values are the principles or standards we embrace which define that which we deem important, worthwhile, desirable or necessary to be moral, productive and fulfilled individuals.

As a church family we are placing a high value on: 1. God, 2. Family, 3. Church, 4. Worship, 5. Character, 6. Love. Pursuing and guarding these values will help us fulfill our God Given Mission and accomplish our Glorious Vision.

Please attach your personal picture below



Representative of the Church Council: _____ **Date:** _____

English Pastor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Senior Pastor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____