

RECEPTION AND TRANSFER OF MEMBERS

Qualification – The membership of this church shall consist of such persons as follows:

1. Those who publicly confess Jesus Christ to be their Savior and Lord and whom having been accepted by vote of this church are baptized.
2. Those who transfer letter from a sister Baptist church; those who by statement profess to have publicly confessed Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord and who have been baptized as believers.
3. Those who transfer their membership to Shades Crest by statement of faith who have not experienced believer's baptism may present themselves for baptism by immersion.

Reception – Those applying for membership shall be received by vote of the congregation at the regularly scheduled business meeting. In the admission of members it is desirable that the vote should be unanimous; but, if in any instance objection is made, the case shall be referred without debate to the Pastor and the Diaconate for investigation and report. Should the church, upon hearing the report, regard the objection as invalid or unscriptural; the applicant may be received by a three-fourths vote.

Rights – All members will have access to a copy of the Church Constitution and Bylaws. Members who are in full and regular standing shall be encouraged to act and vote in the transactions of the church.

Duties – Members are expected, first of all, to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life; to attend habitually the services of this church; to give regularly for its support and its causes; and to share in its organized work.

Transfers – Upon request of a sister Baptist church and upon approval of our church in business meeting, Letters of Transfer will be granted to that church on behalf of such members of this church in good standing.

Removals – Upon satisfactory evidence that a member has united with a church of another denomination, or deceased, notice will be given at a regular business meeting, and upon approval by the church, that member will be removed from the roll.

Associate Members:

1. Some believers may desire to be an Associate Member of Shades Crest. Associate members retain their membership in another congregation, but are also associated with the ministries of Shades Crest. Most of the time, those believers who request Associate Membership are (1) studying in Birmingham and plan to return home after completing their studies; (2) long-time members of Shades Crest who still live in the area, but due to health reasons, must join another congregation closer to their residence or (3) working in the area for a short period of time but desire membership involvement in Shades Crest, while living

in the Birmingham area. When the Associate Member desires to end his/her relationship with Shades Crest, the church will comply. Otherwise, the Associate Member will continue to have a relationship with Shades Crest until their death. Associate Members are NOT to be counted in the overall membership numbers.

2. Associate Members receive all church-wide mailings, may serve on ministry committees, and in Connect Groups (Sunday School) Ministry leadership. Associate Members are not eligible to serve as Deacons, trustees, church officers, or vote in business meetings on matters related to finances, property, or personnel.