

First Christian Church
1130 Temple Street, Greeneville, TN 37745
fccgreene.org

Membership Requirements

According to Article 4 of the First Christian Church (FCC) Bylaws:

“The church roll shall consist of active and inactive members. The Board shall determine the criteria for identifying active and inactive membership, and for removing members from membership, if necessary. The roll shall be revised and brought up to date at least once a year just prior to the selection of Elders during the Annual Vote.”

Note: At FCC the Elders are the Board. Also, FCC Bylaws can be viewed on our website: “Leaders” (fccgreene.org/leaders) or “Membership” (fccgreene.org/membership).

Expectations and Privileges of Membership

We believe it is unbiblical consumerism to expect personal care and growth without commitment. (See fccgreene.org/membership for more, including links to teaching resources.) So we approach local church

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membership as a two-way relationship and a mutual commitment between a church and its members for the sake of personal and corporate growth.

Expectations

All members of FCC are expected to cultivate the 7 Habits in their daily lives as part of our mission of *Helping People Find and Follow Jesus*.

1. *Engage in worship.*
2. *Serve on the team.*
3. *Connect in a small group.*
4. *Pray and study the Bible.*
5. *Pursue generosity.*
6. *Identify with Christ.*
7. *Tell the story.*

Privileges

As outlined in Article 18 of the FCC Bylaws, members are listed on the church roll as an active member and will have the right to vote, (if 16 years or older), which currently means voting on Elders once yearly.

In addition, it means better care and attention than non-members who may consider us their church home but are not [“meaningfully participating.”](#) Here are additional benefits that result from the implications of greater mutual

commitment, a focus on protecting the flock, and providing ongoing support and training for long-term growth.

- Greater commitment to your spiritual growth and leadership development.
- Better shepherding and accountability from our Elders, Staff, and Leaders.
- Greater voice into our vision.
- Qualifying for leadership roles: Teacher, Serve Team or Small Group Leader, Serve Team Coach, etc.
- Qualifying for tuition-free formal theological training, under our “Church Partner” program with Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary. (See <https://cbtseminary.org/church-partnership-program.>)

Becoming A Member

Requirements

In order to become a member of FCC, the following 4 requirements must be completed.

1. Complete the *Next Steps* process. (Go to fccgreene.org/nextsteps for more.)
2. Repent from sin and turn to walk with Christ as Savior and Lord by grace through faith, as evidenced by a Spirit-led lifestyle and [meaningful participation](#) in church life through the *7 Habits*.
3. Identify with Christ through baptism by immersion, not necessarily at FCC. (If you have not been baptized, talk

to your *Next Steps* Helper, Serve Team or Small/Life Group Leader, Campus Pastor, or let us know on the [Connect Card](#) to begin the process.)

4. Publicly confess faith in Jesus Christ during a worship service at FCC. This finalizes the process and formalizes membership by being welcomed by the Campus Pastor (or his delegate), who will lead you through this confession of faith (“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and my Lord and Savior”) and then introduce you to the congregation. We take completion of this step to mean that you are in alignment with FCC’s [Confession of Faith](#). If you disagree with anything in our Confession, we ask that you agree to not teach against, promote, or practice otherwise within our body and that you identify the area(s) of disagreement in discussion with the Elders before establishing or renewing membership.

Note:

- We’d love to help you get started on any of the above steps. Just let us know on the [Connect Card](#).
- If a question arises as to whether or not these requirements have been fully met by any person desiring to become a member, the Board/Elders will make the final determination.

Children

Children who are age 12 or older are required to complete *Next Steps* in order to become a member (in addition to completing steps 2-4 above). Age 12 was chosen because 6th grade is when children begin serving (Worship & Serve) and formally move into the Youth Group. However, as outlined in our Bylaws, voting privileges still begin at age 16. Therefore, for children to become members of FCC:

- Completion of *Next Steps* is required for children age 12 or older.
- Completion of *Next Steps* is NOT required for children under the age of 12.

Note:

- Children who become members prior to the age of 12 will be highly encouraged to attend and complete *Next Steps* once they reach age 12, but they do not lose their membership status if they do not.
- Affirmation of the Confession of Faith, as outlined in Step 4 under “Requirements,” begins at age 16.

Current Members

Active members at the time this policy is adopted are highly encouraged, but not required, to submit to the same 4 step Requirements process outlined above. They will continue to

be regarded as active members on the roll, with the same right to vote as outlined in Article 18 of the FCC Bylaws, provided the following criteria are met:

- They do not choose to formally withdraw membership.
- They are not removed from membership by the Board.
- They respond affirmatively to an Annual Renewal of Membership (explained below).

Annual Renewal of Membership

All active members must respond affirmatively to an annual renewal of membership in order to remain as an active member with all the privileges outlined above, including voting. This renewal process is necessary to comply with the FCC Bylaws, which state: "The roll shall be revised and brought up to date at least once a year just prior to the selection of Elders during the Annual Vote." The Board will determine the content of the Annual Renewal of Membership.

If an active member fails to respond affirmatively to the Annual Renewal of Membership by the specified deadline, they will be considered an inactive member, and will no longer retain membership privileges and the right to vote as outlined in Article 18 of the FCC Bylaws. In all cases, restatement to active membership will be dependent upon Board approval.