

## **FAQs regarding Membership, Baptism and Child Dedication at Stone Hill**

### **Why should I become a member of my local church?**

Completing the process of membership in a local church provides the congregant with an opportunity to tangibly join the church. It also gives the leadership an opportunity to get to know the new member through the process. Baptism is a way to formalize the commitment of the leadership, the congregant, and the entire congregation to partner together to display the beauty of Christ in community.

### **Why should I be baptized?**

The last command Jesus gave his disciples was to go into all the world, baptizing and making disciples. Baptism is the public sign that a person lives under the authority of God the Father, by trusting in Jesus Christ and living in the power of his Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Baptism is more than just an identification that a person has put their trust in Jesus Christ, it's also a sign that a person has also joined themselves to other believers and are one body. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

At Stone Hill Church, we have historically preached and practiced believer's baptism.

### **What is Stone Hill's stance and practice on infant baptism?**

The historic teaching and practice of Stone Hill Church has been and will continue to emphasize believer's baptism. At the same time, according to our by-laws and the previous practice of the church, the church has left the mode of baptism to the conscience of the individual. In view of this, we allow parents who so desire to have their infant children baptized by a willing pastor of the church at a special service of the church.

Whether someone is baptized as an infant or as a believer, sprinkled with water or immersed, a person is saved by grace through faith in Christ. All Christians are called to live a life pleasing to the Lord that is consistent with the sign of baptism that their sins have been forgiven.

### **What's the relationship between baptism and membership?**

Baptism signifies that a person has been placed into the body of Christ by the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13) Therefore, formal membership in a body of believers, the church, would require that a person be baptized. At Stone Hill Church, both infant baptism and believer's baptism are accepted as part of our membership requirements.

### **What is child dedication?**

In a dedication service, the parents of the child will publicly acknowledge that their child is a gift from God and will commit to rearing their child in the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit. The congregation will also commit to serving this family and participating fully in the discipleship of the child in the community of faith.

### **What should I do next if I'm interested in membership, baptism, or child dedication?**

Adults and Youth: Complete the [application form](#) to express your interest in membership and/or baptism or [contact Erin Lee](#) with questions.

Parents and Kids grades 1-5: Download our free [baptism workbook](#) and [contact Erin Lee](#) to discuss your interest in baptism or ask questions.

Infant Baptism and Child Dedication: Contact the [Children's Director](#) for more information.