

# Mission and Membership

## THE MISSION OF SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

The mission of Second Baptist Church in Russellville is

“Growing disciples who follow God, love people and share Christ”

**"Growing disciples ..."** – making disciples is central to what we call "The Great Commission"

- Matthew 28:19-20
- 2 Peter 3:18

There is two-fold meaning to "growing disciples" in the church mission statement. First, it is the goal of the church to have disciples who are growing in their faith. Second, it the purpose of the church to promote that growth.

**"... who worship God"** – The Bible repeatedly mentions how God's people are to worship him and only him.

- Matt 4:10
- Exodus 20:3-6

There are many "gods" in today's society that we look to for our help in place of God, such as politicians, money, the stock market, drugs, and sometimes even entertainment. We should ask in many contexts, "Is this worthy of the time God has given me?", realizing that there are many distractions from serving God. Choosing to serve God can be an act of worship.

**"... love people"** – Love acts in the best interest of the person being loved.

- Matthew 22:37-40
- 1 Cor 13:4-8
- John 13:34-35
- Matthew 5:16

By serving others in Jesus' name our heavenly Father is glorified.

**"... and share Christ"** – Sharing Christ is to tell others about the saving work of Jesus Christ and invite them to receive Him as Lord.

- Mark 16:15
- Acts 1:8

Inviting someone to come to Christ is more than asking them to pray and ask for forgiveness for their sin. It also includes inviting them to become active participants in the body of Christ, visibly seen in a local church.

## JOINING SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

For Second Baptist application for membership may be done in the following ways:

- **By profession** of faith and for baptism according to the policies of this church.
- **By promise** of a letter of recommendation from another Baptist church of like faith and order .
- **By statement** of prior conversion experience and baptism in a church of like faith and order when no letter is obtainable.
- **By Watchcare.** A person may join by Watchcare who is a member of another church of like faith and order. Watchcare membership is intended for those who are in the area temporarily (college, work, etc.) It allows them to retain membership in their home church and also allows them to serve at Second Baptist Church as we watch and care for them while they are in the area. Watchcare members may serve on ministry teams and may assist in other church activities. They may not serve on the Church's operating committees, nor may they vote during business meetings.

Candidates who complete current requirements for membership shall be presented to the church for vote at any regular business meeting.