



波士頓華人佈道會

BOSTON CHINESE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

120 Shawmut Avenue, Boston, MA 02118
(617) 426-5711

218 Walnut Street, Newton, MA 02460
(617) 243-0100

BCEC Baptism/Membership Application Process

We praise God for your interest in getting baptized and/or becoming a member of BCEC. As baptism is an act of identifying yourself with Jesus in His death and resurrection, becoming a member of a local church identifies you with a local church family. It is a biblical and wonderful step for every Christian.

In this package, you will find the following helpful documents:

1. Application Process for Baptism
2. Questions & Answers on Baptism
3. Testimony Guidelines
4. BCEC Statement of Faith
5. Membership Responsibilities
6. What to Expect During the Baptism Ceremony
7. Application Checklist
8. Baptism/membership application

If you have any questions, feel free to call the church office at
(617) 426-5711 (Chinatown Campus)
(617) 243-0100 (Newton campus).

Someone will be happy to help you!

Note: There are usually three baptisms during the year:

- 1. Easter Sunday**
- 2. Mid September**
- 3. Early December/Christmas**

Dates subject to change. Please refer to the church calendar at www.bcec.net or call the church office for the exact dates.



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What is the Application Process?

If you are ready to get baptized, you will need to complete the following four steps:

Step 1 – Complete a Baptism/Membership application

Step 2 – Write your testimony according to the guidelines

Step 3 – Send the completed application, testimony, and a self portrait to the Office Administrator at helena.fong@bcec.net

Step 4 – Schedule a baptism meeting with a pastor

Three weeks prior to the Baptism service, we ask each candidate to schedule a meeting with the pastor of your worship service. During the meeting, the pastor will interview you regarding your faith, review your application, your testimony, the church's statement on the biblical basis for baptism, and will answer any questions you may have.



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Questions & Answers on Baptism

What is baptism?

It is one of two ordinances of the church. The other is the Lord's Supper. As an ordinance, baptism is an outward rite or ceremony prescribed by Christ to be performed by His Church. In the ceremony, a new believer after confessing his faith in Jesus Christ before the church is immersed in the water and then taken up by the Pastor. It is a public declaration of his love for Christ and his commitment to Him.

What does baptism mean?

Baptism reflects the meaning of the Gospel and the salvation it brings. It shows identification with Christ - in His death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5). As he submerges in the water, the action reminds us that your old self is buried with Christ. As he rises out of the water, it symbolizes your future resurrection with Him. Baptism is also identification with Christ's body, the church. It does not bring salvation. The believing but unbaptized thief on the cross is in paradise with Jesus (Luke 23:39-43). Rather baptism is symbolic of what has already gone on in a believer.

What else does baptism mean in this church?

Being baptized in the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church makes you a member of this local church. That is, you commit yourself to serve and support this church and become part of the formal organization.

Who can be baptized?

Only those people who believe Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for their sins can be baptized. (see Acts 8:26-39 and Acts 10:44-48). Note you do not have to be a Christian for so many years or reach a certain spiritual level.

Why should I be baptized if I am a believer?

1. Christ was baptized. Mt. 3:13-17
2. Christ approved the baptism of others. John 4:1-4
3. Christ commanded it. Mt. 28:18-20
4. Peter commanded it. Acts 2:38
5. The early church practiced it. There was no such thing as an unbaptized believer in the book of Acts.

What if I still don't want to be baptized?

Christ said that if you loved Him you will keep His commandments. Baptism is considered the first step of obedience for a new Christian. Baptism is like wearing a wedding band. If a person is married, he is married regardless of whether he wears a wedding band or not. However, refusing to wear a wedding band shows a lack of love and pride for the spouse. In the same way a Christian is saved even if he refuses to be baptized but it shows a lack of love and pride for Jesus Christ. You may be afraid of getting wet or standing in front of all those people, but it isn't much for us to do for Christ who suffered and died on the cross for us.

What if I was baptized when I was a baby?

Baptism in the Bible always comes after faith in Christ. Therefore, I recommend being baptized "again" if you were not a believer when you were first baptized because the first one really didn't mean anything. Note that the baptized disciples of John the baptized were baptized again when they believed in Jesus Christ (Acts 19:1-7)



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Testimony Guidelines For Baptism/Membership Transfers

God bless you as you take the step of joining BCEC membership as part of your Christian journey. As baptism is identifying with Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection, membership is identifying with a local Christian church. One way to do that beyond membership is sharing your testimony.

All new members by baptism or transfer are asked to write a brief testimony to be published in a pamphlet distributed to our church. Your testimony not only gives God credit for the ways He has worked in your life, it is also effective for sharing your hope in Christ with others.

Guidelines for Testimony:

1. Describe within half a page (300-500 words) your spiritual story.
2. Focusing on a particular theme or experience, you can describe your life before, during, and after a particular time or way in which God worked.
3. Keep the testimony focused on how Jesus worked in your life.
4. Please send us a picture for the baptism pamphlet. The picture should be only of you, not a group photo.
5. Please email/mail the above to the Office Administrator at helena.fong@bcec.net at least 3 weeks before the ceremony.
6. If you would like an example of a testimony, please contact the English secretary at english.sec@bcec.net

Note: Your application is not complete until we have your testimony.



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Statement of Faith

We believe:

God - in the triune, everlasting God, Creator of heaven and earth and everything therein.

Scripture - that the Old and New Testaments of the Bible are wholly the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and written by human hands.

Man & Sin - that man is created in the image of God, and that our first parents, having been tempted by Satan, rebelled against God, and have sinned and fallen; because of this the whole human race has been sin-stricken and has thus lost its spiritual life.

Jesus Christ - that the Lord Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary, and bled and died for the sins of all men, crucified as a ransom upon the cross. He was buried in the grave, rose up from the dead on the third day, ascended to heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, having finished the marvelous work of redemption.

Holy Spirit - that the Holy Spirit has descended to convict men of their sin so that they could repent and be born again.

Salvation - that man is justified by faith in Jesus, saved by grace, and this is the only way of salvation.

Second Coming - that the Lord Jesus Christ will come to this earth again at the end of time to judge in righteousness the living and the dead, and those who believe in the Lord will be resurrected to gain eternal life, where as those who do not believe will suffer eternal punishment.



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MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Based on the church constitution, members of the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church are responsible for the following:

1. To grow to think, feel, and act like Christ;
2. To practice the teachings of the Bible, including striving to live a life of holiness and love;
3. To share the Gospel by word and by deed;
4. To hold to the Statement of Faith of BCEC;
5. To participate in BCEC worship service faithfully;
6. To support and participate in BCEC ministries and meetings when possible;
7. To pray faithfully for the ministry of the church;
8. To be involved in serving the Lord at BCEC;
9. To give financially with a cheerful heart toward the work of this church as God has blessed the member;
10. To be submissive to church leaders and to support and encourage them as much as possible;
11. To be submissive to church discipline in the event of misconduct;
12. To participate in the Annual General Assembly Meeting (usually last Sunday of October) and any other Special General Assembly Meeting when called*;
13. To abide by the Constitution and By-laws of BCEC (if you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact church office); and
14. To notify BCEC of any change in membership status.

Please understand that these are the responsibilities of the members of this local church and are not requirements for salvation.

**does not apply to associate members.*



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What to Expect During the Baptism Ceremony

The Baptism Ceremony will be held at the chapel of 218 Walnut Street, Newton at 2:00pm. Please plan to arrive at the church by 1:40 pm.

Upon arrival, please go to the lower level and pick up a blue robe (buttons go in the back) from an usher. Get changed. Bring your towel. Give your valuables to a friend to hold on. And be seated at the left hand side of the chapel by 1:55pm.

Photo: A group picture will be taken in the beginning of the service.

When it is your turn to be baptized, give your towel, glasses etc. to the usher assisting you. Carefully descend the stairs in the baptism pool. You will meet the pastor in the middle of the pool; with your hands together on your chest and stand in front of the pastor, facing the wall near the piano. The pastor may say a few words regarding your decision to accept Christ. For example, "Hannah, because you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." The pastor will then lean you back and immerse you in the water. This is quick. Just close your eyes, hold your breath, bend your knees, and relax. Afterwards, an usher will direct you to the basement to get changed. Please place the wet robe in the big plastic bag before you leave.

What to bring:

- Swimwear (or clothes made of material that retains minimum amounts of water)
- towel
- Plastic bag for wet clothes
- Hair dryer (optional)
- Beach shoes (optional)

Guests: We will reserve special sitting for your guests in the front of the chapel.



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Application Checklist

- _____ Filled out the Baptism/Membership application
- _____ Wrote your testimony according to the guidelines provided
- _____ Submitted the baptism application, testimony, & a self portrait

Date sent: _____

- _____ Scheduled a baptism meeting with a pastor

Pastor _____

Date _____

Time _____

Location: _____ Chinatown Campus
 _____ Newton campus

Thank you for your interest. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office:

(617) 426-5711 (Chinatown campus)

(617) 243-0100 (Newton campus)

We would be happy to help you!



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Application for Baptism/Membership

Name: _____ (Chinese) _____
(English) Last First Middle

Male Female Date of Birth ____/____/____ Place of Birth _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Mobile Phone #: _____

Marital Status: Single Married Name of Spouse: _____

Name(s) of Children (living with you):

_____ date of birth _____

_____ date of birth _____

_____ date of birth _____

**if more than three children, list on the back*

Highest Education (Grade/Degree): _____ Occupation: _____

Workplace/School Name: _____

Work/School Address: _____

Workplace Phone #: _____

Languages: (1 = read & write, 2 = can understand & speak, 3 = can understand but cannot speak)

English ____ Cantonese ____ Mandarin ____ Other _____

Which service do you regularly attend at BCEC?

Chinatown English Chinatown Cantonese Chinatown Mandarin

Newton English Newton Cantonese Newton Mandarin

The year you first started attending BCEC: _____

Signature

Date of Application

Parent/Guardian signature (applicant under 18)

Relationship to the minor

-----**For Office Use**-----

Interviewed ____ Letter ____ BOE ____ Cr. ____ Update ____



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Application for Membership

Today's Date: _____

Your Name: _____
Last First Middle

Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as your personal savior? Yes No

The year you first trusted Christ as savior _____

Have you read the Member's Responsibilities and agree to abide by them?

Yes No

Please check only one:

Full Membership by Baptism (fill out box #1 below)

Full Membership by Transfer (fill out box #2 below)

Associate Membership (fill out box #2 below)

#1

For those applying for **Full Membership by Baptism:**

Anticipated Date of Baptism: _____

Name of Pastor Performing Baptism: _____

#2

For those applying for **Full Membership by Transfer** or **Associate Membership:**

Church of Current Membership: _____

Address: _____

Current Pastor's Name: _____ Phone Number _____

Baptized at (Church Name): _____

Baptized by (Pastor's Name): _____ Date of Baptism: _____

Reason(s) for Transfer to BCEC: _____

 **For transfers, please request a letter of transfer to be sent to BCEC.**

Check here if you are baptized but are not a member of any church.

Please supply baptism information above.