



village church of barrington

Membership Application*

*Please attach a photo of yourself or send digital photo to sharon@vcbweb.org

Name _____ Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth ____/____/____

Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Home Phone () _____ Office Phone () _____

Cell Phone () _____ E-mail Address _____

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Engaged ☐ Married ☐ Separated ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed

Name of spouse or fiancé, if applicable _____

Other members of your immediate family (include relationship and age): _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Spiritual History

Were you raised in a Christian household? ☐ Yes ☐ No When did you come to faith in Christ? _____

How did you come to faith in Christ (use another sheet if necessary)? _____

On what Scripture verses do you base your salvation? _____

Were you baptized after becoming a believer? ☐ Yes ☐ No If not, would you like to be baptized? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Previous Church Involvement

Do you have previous church experience? ☐ Yes ☐ No If so, tell us about your most recent experience, before coming to VCB:

Name of Church _____ City & State _____

Senior Pastor _____ Denomination _____

How long did you attend this church? _____ Are you currently a member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What was the extent of your ministry involvement? _____

Why did you leave? Use a separate sheet, if necessary. _____

Are you currently under church discipline (or has a discipline process been initiated on you)? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "yes," please explain on a separate sheet.

Involvement at Village Church of Barrington

How did you find out about VCB? _____

How long have you been attending? _____ **Note:** Our Constitution requires that a person attend the weekend worship services for three months before becoming eligible for church membership.

Which service(s) do you typically attend? _____

Have you joined a small group or discipleship group? ☐ Yes ☐ No Which one? _____

Have you found a place to serve in the church? ☐ Yes ☐ No Where? _____

Have you taken the VCB membership class? ☐ Yes ☐ No When? _____

Affirmations

Do you agree to fulfill the basic commitments of church membership, including: sharing the Gospel; engaging with other believers in the life of the community through faithful church attendance, small group involvement and participation in congregational meetings; growing in grace; using your spiritual gifts and financial resources to further the mission of the church; and following joyfully and prayerfully the church's duly elected leadership? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you in agreement with the Statement of Faith (attached)? ☐ Yes ☐ No. Explain any points of disagreement on a separate sheet.

Are you in agreement with the Fellowship Pledge (attached)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Village Church of Barrington reserves the right to place under church discipline members who, in its judgment, do not conform to the doctrinal beliefs or behavioral standards of the church.

Having received Christ as my personal Savior and Lord, and desiring to actively support the mission of this church, I hereby apply for membership. I am in full accord with the Statement of Faith and Fellowship Pledge, both in word and in spirit. As a member of this church, I will abide by the Constitution and fulfill the responsibilities of membership, with God's help and for His glory.

Applicant's Signature

Date

For office use only

Membership Class Complete

Date ____/____/____

Applicant interviewed and approved for further vetting:

1) _____
Name and Title

Date ____/____/____

2) _____
Name and Title

Elder, Deacon, Pastoral Staff Vetting Complete

Date ____/____/____

Congregational Vetting Complete & Date of Membership

Date ____/____/____

This applicant meets all of the requirements for membership.

Helen Cobler, Church Clerk

Statement of Faith

God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

Fellowship Pledge

Colossians 3:17, *'And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.'*

Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior from sin and accepting the Holy Scriptures as our rule of faith and practice and recognizing the privilege of uniting ourselves in Christian fellowship for worship and service, we do now in the presence of God and invoking His blessings, solemnly and joyfully enter into agreement with one another as one body in Christ.

- A. We endeavor by the enablement of the Holy Spirit:
 - 1. to walk together in Christian love (Ephesians 5:1-2; Hebrews 13:1; Galatians 5:13-26);
 - 2. to seek the growth of this church in grace, in holiness in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the fullness of Christ (2 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 4:12-16; Romans 15:4-7);
 - a. to promote its prosperity and spiritual life (Hebrews 10:24-25);
 - b. to sustain its worship, ordinances, disciplines and doctrines (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:1-2);
 - c. to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of its ministry and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations (2 Corinthians 9:7; 8:1-6; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3).
- B. We shall consider it our duty:
 - 1. to maintain family and private Bible reading and prayer (1 Timothy 4:13-16);
 - 2. to seek diligently the salvation of the lost (Mark 16:15-16);
 - 3. to walk circumspectly before the Lord, abstaining from unscriptural alliances with the unsaved and harmful worldly practices which hinder the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in our lives and render our testimony ineffective before the world (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:15);
 - 4. to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment (Romans 12:17-18, 12:10; 1 Peter 2:11-14);
 - 5. to avoid all gossiping, back-biting and excessive anger (2 Corinthians 12:20; Matthew 5:22; Ephesians 4:26);
 - 6. to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ in the world (Matthew 28:19).
- C. We shall further endeavor:
 - 1. to watch over one another in brotherly love (Romans 12:10);
 - 2. to remember each other in prayer and in thanksgiving (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Hebrews 13:18);
 - 3. to help one another in sickness and distress (Romans 12:13);
 - 4. to cultivate genuine Christian sympathy (Romans 12:15);
 - 5. to be courteous in speech, manner, and conduct (James 3:17);
 - 6. to seek forgiveness and to forgive one another (James 5:16; Luke 17:3,4);
 - 7. to be slow to take offense and be always ready for reconciliation ever mindful of the admonition of our Savior to secure it without delay (James 1:19).

Humbly confessing our innate weakness and to the end that we may fulfill the spirit and obligation of this pledge, we pray for the guidance, and enablement of our Heavenly Father to keep it with one another to the glory of God (James 1:23-24).