



Battle Baptist Church  
Mount Street  
Battle  
East Sussex  
TN33 0EG

*Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country ~ and beyond.*

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Date:

Dear

An application for church membership has been received from:

.....Telephone number: .....

At a recent meeting of the elders it was suggested that you might be a suitable person to visit him/her. The other suggested visitor is ..... and if you are willing to carry out this important responsibility, please would you contact them to arrange a convenient time to see the new candidate, and pass on your subsequent report to the church office by .....

If you are unable to be a visitor this time, please let the Church Office (01424 774825) know as soon as possible.

You should allow up to 2 hours for your visit, which will normally have several aims and purposes. Be sensitive as to whether the applicant can receive you in his or her own home or whether it is better to meet somewhere else away from distractions. The applicant has been sent the following 6 documents to read before the meeting. We have also given copies of these documents to one of the visiting Church Members:

- Church Membership - setting out privileges and responsibilities of being a Church Member;
- Vision to 2020 – where we believe God wants to take us;
- Housegroup list – to help the applicant decide which Housegroup they would like to join;
- Owning and Sharing leaflet – about the applicant's financial support to this Church.
- Saved to Serve form - to let us know how the applicant is going to get involved in Church life. This form needs to be completed before they are welcomed into membership (preferably before or at your meeting with the applicant);
- The Membership report form, which is completed by you at the visit, having discussed each of the issues it raises with the applicant.

The Membership report form covers the following issues:

1. It is necessary to ascertain whether or not the applicant has a real and personal commitment to Jesus Christ. At Zion we are convinced that the church can only be composed of believers, and therefore on your visit try to find out the circumstances of conversion. Don't be afraid to make notes there and then (most people don't mind) so that your report is true and accurate.
2. The attitude of the applicant toward Believer's Baptism needs to be ascertained. If a candidate has not been baptised as a believer the reasons should be noted in your report.
3. Try to find out how the applicant feels about the work of the Holy Spirit in the church today. Baptism in the Holy Spirit as a definite experience for today is taught in Battle Baptist Church. All members are encouraged to discover and develop the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives and to be ready to use them in Housegroups and public

meetings as God leads. Members are also expected to be open to being used to pray for other people publicly as the need and occasion arises.

4. Point out the challenge of belonging to a Baptist Church. The aim of Church Meetings is not just to attend to fabric matters but also to be a spiritual hub of church life and to be the place where God's people together seek God's revelation for their future. For every members of the Church, attendance firstly on Sundays, then at Housegroups and Church Meetings, should be a priority.

5. Encourage attendance at Housegroups. This is vital if a new member is to develop a web of friendly supportive relationships in the Church. Housegroups are not viewed as an optional extra but as meetings, which church members attend to participate in prayer and fellowship on a personal level. Housegroup leaders are entrusted with pastoral support for those in their groups. Make a note in your report of the Housegroup the applicant will be attending so that the leader is informed.

6. Remind the prospective member that attendance at the Lord's Supper is both a duty and a privilege and encourage them to come regularly to the Lord's Table.

7. Explain how the local church is financed through the freewill tithes and offerings of its members rather than casual attendees. Ascertain the commitment of the candidate to financially support the work of Battle Baptist Church. If the prospective member is a taxpayer encourage them to gift aid their offerings. The money received from the Inland Revenue is used to keep the buildings functioning so that tithes can be allocated to their proper use, that of maintenance of the ministry, mission and gifts to the poor and needy.

8. Ascertain any past or present involvement in the occult or related activities (eg Astrology, Freemasonry etc).

9. Ascertain the applicant's skills and availability to use them within the life of Battle Baptist Church, using the attached Saved to Serve form.

10. If for any reason you feel an applicant should not be admitted to membership then that should be mentioned in your report. Others will take the final decision. Deferrals and refusals are necessary from time to time. Don't worry about this - authority (and responsibility) lie with the Church Meeting and elders, so it is not your fault if someone is not immediately admitted into membership.

Do try as far as possible to develop a meaningful relationship with the applicant. You are the point of contact with the wider congregation until they begin to make other friends. It is helpful to make a point of going out of your way to speak to them on Sundays and it would be good if you booked another time with them for 3 months after their reception into membership to see whether or not people are feeling integrated.

After your visit please send or e-mail your report into the Church Office so that it can be discussed at the next elders' meeting.

Thank you for your help. Yours sincerely

pp the elders of Battle Baptist Church