

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Definition. The membership of this Church shall consist of loyal Christian Scientists who have met the requirements below and signed the Church register.

2.2 Eligibility. To be eligible for membership, a person must:

2.2.1 Be one who is not a member of any other church except The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston Massachusetts; who loves Christian Science, and reads understandingly the Bible, and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy, and other works by this author; and who is Christianly qualified and can enter into full fellowship with the Tenets and Rules of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston Massachusetts, and the Bylaws of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Austin, Texas.

2.2.2 "...be a believer in the doctrines of Christian Science, according to the platform [*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, pp.330-340] and teaching contained in the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Rev. Mary Baker Eddy. The Bible, together with *Science and Health* and other works by Mrs. Eddy, shall be his only textbooks for self-instruction in Christian Science, and for teaching and practicing metaphysical healing." (*Manual of The Mother Church*, p. 34)

2.2.3 Be at least twelve years of age. Members under the age of eighteen may not vote on projects and matters that legally or financially bind the Church and may not serve as elected officers of this Church.

ARTICLE 3 - DUTIES OF MEMBERS

3.1 Study and Practice. It shall be the duty of the members of this Church to study the Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, and the *Manual of The Mother Church*, and endeavor to practice these teachings in their lives.

3.2 Activity. It shall be the duty of members of this Church:

- 3.2.1** To contribute to the spiritual uplift of the Church.
- 3.2.2** To study and obey these Bylaws.
- 3.2.3** To take an active and unselfed interest in all matters that pertain to this Church.
- 3.2.4** To attend the services and all regular and special business meetings.
- 3.2.5** To contribute regularly to financial support of this Church.
- 3.2.6** To participate in one or more church activities unless impossible.
- 3.2.7** To conduct themselves prayerfully before and during Sunday services, Wednesday Testimony meetings, lectures, and business meetings.
- 3.2.8** To strive to determine clearly, from the highest ideals of Christian Science, what will best promote the growth and prosperity of this Church, and to labor unselfishly for harmony.
- 3.2.9** To seek earnestly the guidance of divine Principle in all voting, and to abide lovingly by the decision of the majority.

STANDING RULES

B.5 Membership Duties.

It shall be the duty of the members of this Church:

- B.5.1** To submit all recommendations, requests for action, and complaints to the Board in writing. Any member may appear before the Board by making request through the Clerk.
- B.5.2** To inform the Clerk in writing immediately upon their acceptance as members of The Mother Church, completion of Christian Science class instruction, change of address, telephone number and/or email address.
- B.5.3** To sever their connection with this Church should they move to another area (except for valid reasons), and consider uniting with another church or society near their new residence.
- B.5.4** To refrain from discussing Church business except with members.
- B.5.5** To refrain from discussing or hearing any accusation against other members.

TENETS OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE*

1. As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life.
2. We acknowledge and adore one supreme and infinite God. We acknowledge His Son, one Christ; the Holy Ghost or divine Comforter; and man in God's image and likeness.
3. We acknowledge God's forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts.
4. We acknowledge Jesus' atonement as the evidence of divine, efficacious Love, unfolding man's unity with God through Christ Jesus the Way-shower; and we acknowledge that man is saved through Christ, through Truth, Life, and Love as demonstrated by the Galilean Prophet in healing the sick and overcoming sin and death.
5. We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter.
6. And we solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just, and pure.

* from page 497 of ***Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures***
by Mary Baker Eddy

I HEREBY SUBSCRIBE TO AND COMPLY WITH THE
FOREGOING TENETS, ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, AND
DUTIES OF MEMBERS:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Revised 2024

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
1309 Guadalupe Austin, Texas 78701

512-472-2356
clerk@firstcsaustin.org

I HEREBY MAKE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, AUSTIN, TEXAS: (Please print)

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS, WHO ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE MOTHER CHURCH AND NOT RELATED TO THE APPLICANT OR TO EACH OTHER, SUPPORT AND RECOMMEND THE ABOVE-NAMED APPLICANT FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

This is to certify that _____

was admitted to First Church of Christ, Scientist, Austin, Texas on the

day of _____ Month _____ Year _____

_____, Clerk