



波士頓華人佈道會

**BOSTON CHINESE EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

249 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02111  
(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 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. Baptism/membership application
4. What to Expect During the Baptism Ceremony
5. Testimony Guidelines
6. BCEC Statement of Faith
7. Membership Responsibilities
8. Application Checklist

If you have any questions, feel free to call the church office at (617) 426-5711. Someone will be happy to help you!



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## What is the Application Process?

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

**Step 1 - Contact the pastor who is handling baptism for this time.**

Please see the church bulletin or call the church office at 617-426-5711.

**Step 2 - Complete a Baptism/membership application**

**Step 3 – Write your testimony according to the guidelines**

**Step 4 – Send the Baptism/membership application & testimony**

Mail application to:

Boston Chinese Evangelical Church  
C/O Baptism/Membership Application  
249 Harrison Ave.  
Boston, MA 02111

**Step 5 – Schedule a Baptism Interview (Mandatory)**

Three weeks prior to the Baptism service, we ask each participant to schedule an interview with the baptism officiating Pastor. 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**

*Reverend Steven Chin, Senior Pastor*

### **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.



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## **Questions & Answers on Baptism (continued)**

### **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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### Application for Membership (p.1)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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)

For those applying for membership **by baptism only:**

Anticipated Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pastor Performing Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

For those applying for **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.

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### Application for Membership (p.2)

Name: (English) \_\_\_\_\_ (Chinese) \_\_\_\_\_  
Last, First Middle

Male  Female Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, City, State Zip

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status:  Single  Married Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

(living with you) \_\_\_\_\_ date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

*\*if more than three children, list down below*

Highest Education (Grade/Degree): \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Workplace/School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work/School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Workplace Phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

English \_\_\_\_\_ Cantonese \_\_\_\_\_ Mandarin \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Which service do you regularly attend at BCEC?

Chinatown English  Chinatown Cantonese (9:15)  Chinatown Cantonese (11:15)

Newton English  Newton Cantonese  Chinatown Mandarin

The year you first started attending BCEC: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date of Application

\_\_\_\_\_  
parent/guardian signature (applicants under 18) Relationship to the minor

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

Interviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Letter \_\_\_\_\_ BOE \_\_\_\_\_ Crt. \_\_\_\_\_ Update \_\_\_\_\_

<form updated 6/1/07>



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## What to Expect During the Baptism Ceremony

The Baptism Ceremony will be held at the sanctuary of 249 Harrison Avenue, Boston at 2:00pm. Please plan to arrive at the church by 1:40 pm.

Upon arrival, please go to the basement 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 sanctuary 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 then will ask you a question regarding your decision to accept Christ. For example, "Hannah, have you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior?"

After you say "yes," the pastor will say, "I baptized 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 sanctuary.



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## **Testimony Guidelines For English Baptisms/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 Testimonies:

1. Describe within half a page (300 words or less) your spiritual story.
2. Focusing on a particular theme or experience, you can use the model of describing 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 English secretary at [english.sec@bcec.net](mailto:english.sec@bcec.net) at least 3 weeks before the ceremony.



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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 and any other Special General Assembly Meeting when called\*;
13. To abide by the Constitution and By-laws of BCEC; and
14. To notify BCEC of any change in membership status.

**Let it be understood 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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### **Application checklist:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Discussed your interest in baptism/membership with a BCEC pastor?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Filled out the Baptism/membership application?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wrote your testimony according to the guidelines provided and send a picture of yourself
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scheduled a Baptism Interview

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 or one of our pastors. We would be happy to help you!