

By-Laws - Article II – Membership – Hammond Bay Church

The Church reserves the right to admit or terminate membership

A. Qualification -

Any person confessing faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord of his/her life, and giving evidence of regeneration, and who accepts the views of faith and practice held by this church, may be a candidate for membership.

B. Procedure for Admission -

1. The candidate for membership shall be interviewed by at least two Deacons and/or the Pastor.
2. The candidate shall be recommended to the assembled Church at any regular meeting and testimony of his/her personal faith in Christ may be given. The Church shall subsequently vote upon the recommendation from the interviewing Deacons and Pastor regarding the candidate.
3. The candidate shall:
 - a. Be baptized by immersion before the assembled Church or
 - b. Declare to the satisfaction of the Church that he/she has been regenerated and baptized by immersion.
4. The candidate shall be welcomed into the membership of the Church at any worship or business meeting of the Church.

C. Definition of an Active Member -

1. A member of the Church is expected to attend its meetings, to work for its growth, to fittingly represent his/her Lord and Church in the community and to contribute regularly and according to his ability.
2. Members shall strive with God's help to uphold the beliefs of the Church. If at any time a member finds himself/herself opposed to the fundamental doctrines of the Church he/she shall not disrupt its fellowship but shall quietly withdraw from its membership.

D. Definition of an Inactive Member -

1. An inactive member is a member of the Church who is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities as an Active member but requests to remain on the membership role as an Inactive Member.
2. The Church reserves the right to place members who are not fulfilling their responsibilities on an Inactive Membership status. Such action will be made by the decision of the Church upon recommendation from the Board. All such action by the Church will be preceded by an attempt by the Pastor and/or Deacons to restore such people to participation in the life of the Church. Such decision will be followed up by written notice to these members that they have been placed on an Inactive status.
3. Inactive members have no voting privileges.
4. Inactive members can be restored to Active Member status by recommendation of the Board to the Church.

- E. Voting -
A voting member is an active member who is 18 years of age or older.
- F. Termination of Membership -
1. Whenever a member joins another church, his/her membership in Hammond Bay Baptist Church in Nanaimo automatically terminates. A letter of transfer may be granted upon request.
 2. The Deacons will review the membership roll every June and December. Any member who voluntarily fails to make a favourable contact with the Church for six months will be considered a member not in good standing and shall be contacted, if possible, by the Deacons or the Pastor. (A favourable contact is attendance at one Sunday service per month for three successive months including one Lord's Supper service in three months). If he/she then fails to make a favourable contact with the Church, his/her name shall be dropped from the Church membership. All such deletions shall become official at a duly called business meeting of the Church.
- G. Discipline of Members
1. Members who persist in living unchristian lives, disseminate false doctrine, stir up disunity in the Church or who habitually neglect their Church obligations may be removed from membership. The Pastor and/or Deacons shall seek to meet with all such persons in order to restore them to fellowship. When efforts to restore such members fail, such members can be removed by the action of the Board on behalf of the Church. All such actions will be reported to the Church.
 2. In all cases of grievances between members, the offenders shall be dealt with in accordance with the rules set forth in Matthew 18:15-20. No public charge shall be made until such reconciliation has been attempted. Charges shall be written and submitted to the Board for further action and possible Church decision.
- H. Restoration of Members
A former member of the Church who was dismissed from membership may be restored to full membership by recommendation of the Board and the vote of the Church.