



Application for fellowship in the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Name of church _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of pastor/wife _____ Date ministry began _____

Date of church organization _____ Incorporation _____

(Please attach a brief historical sketch of the church.)

Present membership (must have at least 15) _____ Number over age 18? _____ Under age 18? _____

Note: If more space is needed to respond fully to any question, please attach a separate sheet to this application.

	YES	NO
Have you been examined and recognized as a Baptist church by a council of Regular Baptist churches called for that purpose? (See attached explanation. Please include a copy of the Minutes of the Recognition Council and a list of the churches composing the Council.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you subscribe, without qualification, to the Constitution and Articles of Faith of the GARBC?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your church publicly identify itself as Baptist? (See attached policy.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the present Constitution of your church require baptism by immersion for membership?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you now have any unimmersed members on your church roll? (This does not mean candidates awaiting baptism.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your church have complete freedom to elect or call a pastor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To call a pastor, must the church gain consent or approval from some group outside the local congregation? If yes, please explain:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Must the pastor subscribe to the Constitution and Articles of Faith of the church?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your church handle its own finances?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is your church financially accountable to another church, group of churches, or any other organizations? If yes, please explain:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there any contract or agreement between the church and any group which limits the independent function of the church? If yes, please explain:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is your church now a member of any nonfundamental, local, state, or national convention or association of churches? If yes, please name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was your church ever in any nonfundamental, local, state, or national convention or association of churches? If yes, please name and indicate the year of withdrawal:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you are in fellowship with any local or state Regular Baptist association or other fundamental groups, please name:

Provide the names of at least two GARBC pastors or leaders in your area who are acquainted with your church.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The _____ Church of _____, having previously read the Constitution and Articles of Faith of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, now subscribes to these documents in a regular business session on _____ 20 _____, and being free from any organic connection with any local, state or national convention, association or group which permits the presence of liberals, liberalism (i.e., apostasy) hereby makes application in accordance with Article IV, Section 1, of your Constitution.

Please enclose a copy of the following:

- Articles of Faith
- Articles of Incorporation
- Church Covenant
- Constitution of your Church
- Minutes of the Recognition Council and list of churches composing the Council

Clerk signature _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Clerk's phone _____

Pastor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Pastor's phone _____ Church phone _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____ Web site _____

Please complete & return this form

to the Ministry Resource Center at

General Association of Regular Baptist Churches

3715 North Ventura Drive • Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004-7678

Phone 847.843.1600 • Fax 847.843.3757



GARBC Recognition Councils

In a climate of ambiguity and compromise, maintaining doctrinal integrity within an association is a critical issue. Recognition councils provide a forum for examination of a church's doctrinal position.

When a new Baptist church forms, it is customary for that church to call a council of sister churches—including pastors and other messengers—to meet together. They examine the articles of faith, the constitution, the covenant, the practices of the church and the purposes for organizing. If the council finds that all documents and practices are in keeping with Baptist faith and polity and that the purposes for the organization are justifiable, it votes to recognize the church as a Baptist church.

The finding of the council is not binding upon the local church. If the council should decline to recognize the church, it would still have the right to call itself a Baptist church. At the same time, other Baptist churches would have the right not to accept it into associational fellowship.

The purpose of this historical procedure among Baptists is to safeguard the GARBC against the possibility of receiving into fellowship churches that are irregular in doctrine or practice. Without such guidelines, the potential would exist for a group of people to organize as a "Baptist" church and apply for fellowship, offering no other evidence that they are a Baptist church. If a recognition council does not examine the documents and if the fellowship accepts the church, errors may be discovered later. The church in question may not be a Baptist church in doctrine and practice and should not be part of the fellowship.

To receive only Baptist churches with sound doctrine and practice, the Council of Fourteen voted in 1952 to request all newly formed churches to hold recognition councils. In 1962, this rule extended to include all churches applying for fellowship in the GARBC, regardless of the age of the church. These sessions are a blessing to the church and to those who participate. They provide a positive public testimony of the church's doctrinal position and its Baptist distinctives.

When submitting an application for fellowship in the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, please attach the report from the recognition council.



Statement RE Internal Revenue Service Group Ruling for GARBC Churches

Under date of September 20, 1971, the Internal Revenue Service granted the **General Association of Regular Baptist Churches** a Group Ruling that automatically placed each church in fellowship with the Association on a tax-exempt status, and thus certified that gifts made to these churches were legally tax-deductible contributions. The group exemption number is 2194. If this Group Ruling had not been secured, each local church would have had to go through the arduous task of applying and seeking this provision itself.

Annually each new church coming into the Association will be certified to the IRS as being a truly nonprofit entity, that it is not a foundation, and that it desires to be under the Group Ruling. To be thus certified is a distinct advantage to the local church.

The signature of the pastor or an officer of the local church is required below indicating concurrence with the above.

Date _____

Signed _____

Church name _____

City _____ State _____

If your local church has already received such a Ruling for itself, please indicate here: _____

Give the file number. _____

Please return this form to
to the Ministry Resource Center at
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Phone 847.843.1600 • Fax 847.843.3757

A copy of the Determination Letter will be furnished by the Ministry Resource Center upon request.
