

ALDRSGATE METHODIST CHURCH

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP

Registration Form



Aldersgate Methodist Church

Baptism and Membership

1 Introduction

We warmly welcome you to Aldersgate Methodist Church and we praise God for your desire to be a committed member of the church. Baptism is the sacrament of initiation into the body of Christ, the Church, which joins the new member with Christians everywhere. It is an outward sign of your inward faith and something happens at baptism. God seals the person who is baptised as His own. Candidates must carefully consider their motives for baptism and their willingness to accept the responsibilities of Christian life. Under the guidance of disciplers/sponsors, candidates should participate regularly in the life of the church, attend worship services, study the Bible and learn to follow Christ's teachings in daily life.

The Methodist Book of Discipline tells us that:

"A local church is a community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ... [It] is a connectional society of persons who have professed their faith in Christ, have been baptized, have assumed the vows of membership in The Methodist Church, and are associated in fellowship as a local Methodist Church that may hear the Word of God, receive the Sacraments, praise and worship the triune God, and carry forward the work which Christ has committed to His Church."

2 Class Objectives

The Baptism, Confirmation and Membership Class will prepare you in various ways:

- 2.1 If you are an adult believer, the class will prepare you for water baptism either by immersion or by sprinkling/pouring, and membership in the church
- 2.2 If you were baptized as an infant, the class will prepare you for confirmation of the baptism vows and membership in the church
- 2.3 If you are already a member of another church, the class will prepare you for the transfer of your membership to our church

The Class aims to help candidates grow in their faith, knowledge and experience of God. To understand, be equipped and become active members of the Aldersgate family. It intends to help connect you with a sponsor who will mentor you as you grow in the faith and in this church. You are highly encouraged join a Pastoral Care Group (PCG) for fellowship, mutual support, accountability and Christian service together.

3 Requirements for Baptism

- 3.1 Candidates for baptism must profess their faith in Jesus as God and Saviour, and be willing to live as His Disciples
- 3.2 Children below the age of 16 are not required to attend the class, although they may choose to do so. However, the Parent, God-parent or sponsor will be required to do so.
- 3.3 All candidates must have a sponsor. (see point 6 for details)

4 Requirements for Membership

- 4.1 Be Baptized
- 4.2 Be at least 16 years old
- 4.3 Be worshipping with AMC for at least 9 months
- 4.4 Complete the class
- 4.5 Be interviewed by the Pastors or Ministry staff
- 4.6 Obtain a letter of Transfer, confirming Baptism and Membership, and with the blessings from the previous church to effect the transfer **
- 4.7 Attend Baptism class #4 and #5 **

** For candidates who are transferring from other churches

5 Affiliate and Associate membership

5.1 Affiliate

A member of The Methodist Church residing for an extended period in a city or community at a distance from the member's home church may on request be enrolled as an affiliate member of a Methodist church located in the vicinity of the temporary residence. The home pastor(s) shall be notified of the affiliate membership. Such membership will entitle the person to the fellowship of that church, to its pastoral care and oversight, and to participation in its activities, including the holding of office except such as would allow one to vote in the Methodist body other than the local church, but that person shall be counted and reported only as a member of the home church.

5.2 Associate

A member in good standing of another denomination maybe enrolled as an associate member under the same conditions but may not become a voting member of the Local Church Executive Committee.

6 Sponsors

6.1 All Baptism Candidates are required to name a sponsor to be eligible for Baptism.

6.2 Sponsors are required to attend your Baptism.

6.3 In case of a Child Baptism, there should be a God-parent in place of a sponsor.

6.4 God-parents are required to attend the Baptism service as well.

6.5 Role of a Sponsor

6.5.1 Affirm that the Baptism Candidate is ready for baptism

6.5.2 Support and guide the Candidate as he/she grows in the faith, and

6.5.3 Help the Candidate integrate into the local church.

6.6 Requirements of a Sponsor

6.6.1 Must be worshipping in AMC

6.6.2 Ideally be of the same gender and a member of AMC

6.6.3 Must attend Baptism Service

7 Baptism Service

7.1 All ladies are to come in dark tops and bottoms.

7.2 Please bring towels, clothes and underwear to change into.

7.3 Please be punctual. The whole service is short - will only take about 30 mins.

7.4 Your sponsor must be present. Must also be on time

7.5 Please inform us regarding how many guests you will be bringing along.

8 FAQ

8.1 How do I sign up for the Baptism and Membership Class?

Ans: Please prepare the following and hand it in to the church office

- 1) A filled-up application form
- 2) Passport Size photo
- 3) Copy of your Identification Card
- 4) Transfer Certificate from former church *
- 5) Baptism certificate **

* For transfer of membership only

** For those who had been baptised but not confirmed as member

8.2 What are the expectations of the class?

Ans: 1) Be punctual for the interview and classes

2) Submit form with fully furnished details and documents

3) To do the readings and devotion as directed

4) To keep an open mind and heart to the Holy Spirit to guide, convict and transform you

5) To make a decisive commitment to join a small group and be involved in ministry.

8.3 What if I can't make it for one of the lessons?

Ans: Make up lessons will be arranged subject to the availability of the Pastors.

8.4 Can infants undergo Baptism?

Ans: Yes. Babies are welcome for baptism. We encourage parents to avail their infants to God's divine grace through the sacrament of baptism. Please note that instead of sponsor, a god-parent must be appointed for the child.

8.5 If I was baptised as a baby, do I need to be baptised again?

Ans: No.

8.6 Is a Baptism name need on the baptism certificate?

Ans: Having a baptism name in your baptism certificate is optional. Should you wish to add a baptism name, please let us know and indicate this clearly in your registration form.

9 Programme Schedule

(Subject to changes)

Lesson 1&2 **Focus:** Introductory and God the Son

Lesson 3 **Focus:** God the Father and God the Holy Spirit

Lesson 4 **Focus:** The church

Lesson 5 **Focus:** The Local Church

10 Contact us

If you need any assistance with regards to your application, please contact the church office at 6773 1964.