APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

UNDERSTANDING SALVATION AND BAPTISM

- ○ I am absolutely certain of my salvation
- ○ I have read the article *What We Believe About Baptism*
- ○ I understand the meaning/significance of baptism
- ○ I intend on pursuing formal membership at Harvest Durham

UNDERSTANDING CHRIST AND CHRISTIANITY

Please share in your own words…

Who is Jesus Christ?

What is a Christian?

Why do you need Jesus Christ?

What are Christians saved from?

Have you been baptized before? (If yes, please explain the need to be baptized again)

PREPARING YOUR TESTIMONY

On a separate sheet of paper, write out the following aspects of your testimony:

- Before I surrendered my life to Christ, I lived and thought this way…
- This is HOW, WHEN, and WHY I surrendered my life to Christ as my Lord and Saviour…
- Now, with Christ in my life, as I trust Him, I live and think this way…

* Your testimony should be limited to one page, double spaced, front and back, and should take no longer than 2 minutes to read

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT BAPTISM

The Motive for Baptism: Baptism is a command of the Lord

- The Lord's Command: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 ESV). Jesus' word is sufficient warrant for the baptism of believers.
- The Practice of the Early Church: This reveals the application of the Lord's words by those who heard Him speak. We read concerning the converts on the Day of Pentecost: "So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41 ESV). Additional examples of apostolic practice include Acts 8:33-38; 10:44-48; 16:31-33; and 18:8.

The Mandate for Baptism: Baptism is for Christians alone

- Disciples –Christians are commanded to *"make disciples of all nations, baptizing them*." (Matthew 28:19 ESV).
- Believers –"*those who received his word were baptized"* Acts 2:41 ESV. The eunuch confessed his faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Philip baptized him (Acts 8:30-28). The jailer at Philippi "*was baptized at once, he and all his family… he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God."* (Acts 16:33-34 ESV).
- Receivers of the Holy Spirit –While Peter was preaching to Cornelius, *"the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 'Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ"* (Acts 10:44-48 ESV).

  Note: We conclude that baptism is limited to disciples, believers, or those who have received the Holy Spirit. These different designations refer to the same people –namely, Christians. Therefore, all who were baptized before conversion must be baptized again, since baptism is a post-conversion act of obedience.

The Message of Baptism: Baptism is a method of identification

- Identification with Christ –This identification is with His death, burial and resurrection. Paul asked, "*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."* (Romans 6:3-4 ESV).
- Identification with the Church –"*So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls*." (Acts 2:41 ESV).

The Method for Baptism: Baptism is by immersion in water

- The Meaning –The meaning of baptize is "to completely immerse something." It is evident that submerging one in the water and lifting him from it should be the method of baptism, as it gives the most vivid picture of salvation (Romans 6:3-4).
- The Example –The examples of baptism recorded in Scripture imply immersion (Mark 1:10; Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38-39).

Steps To Being Baptized

1. **Baptism Packet**
   Complete all parts of the application and use the information provided to draft your testimony. Hand in your completed application and a copy of your testimony at the Get Connected table on Sunday morning or at the Church office during the week.

2. **Application/Testimony Meeting**
   Once your application and testimony have been received, you will be contacted to schedule a meeting with one of the leaders of the church.

3. **Baptism Sunday**
   You will be contacted regarding the date of the next baptism service and will be given further details as to timing on the Sunday morning, proper attire, what to bring etc.