

Membership at LifePoint



LifePoint
CHURCH

CHURCH HISTORY

Around 1900, a small group of local Baptists in the Smyrna area banded together and planned meetings to keep their group together. They met at various locations like the local schoolhouse on Sunday mornings or the local Methodist and Presbyterian churches in the afternoons.

In 1910, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Murfreesboro saw the need for a Baptist Church in Smyrna and held a tent revival meeting in the Smyrna area. There were eight conversions.

He then encouraged sixteen members from First Baptist of Murfreesboro, Florence Baptist, Powell's Chapel, and Fellowship Baptist to join these new converts to launch First Baptist of Smyrna on September 18, 1910.

In the first year the church doubled in membership to a mighty 33. They operated on a budget of \$150 and contributed \$5.50 to the local Baptist Association for missions work and an orphan's home. You could say that the founders of the church were setting an example of a Live Sent lifestyle that we work to model today.

The church continued to meet for the next three years one Sunday a month at the Methodist church until the lot was purchased in 1914 on Wright Street for \$600. The lot was originally used for a fair with plowing contests. The men were gathered there to see who could plow the straightest furrow.

The first service held in the new building was in 1915. The entire cost of the construction was \$10,000. You can still see that church building today on Ridley Street.

The church grew from there. If we were to chart the growth, you'd see that it pretty much doubled every decade. It went from the 70-something in the 30's to the 150 in the 40's and 50's; 150 to 400 in the 60's; 400 to 800 in the 70's and 80's; 800 to 1500 in the 90's and today we're sitting at 3000. It sort of makes you wonder about the size of the church in the next decade. Will we double again? We hope so!

As you could imagine, new buildings were built in order to sustain the growth. The church built larger buildings in 1954, 1961, and 1975. We outgrew those buildings, sold them, bought the Smyrna property located at 506 Legacy Drive in 1989 and built a sanctuary for worship, which is located in between the children's and student's areas. We outgrew the space and built an even larger sanctuary in 2004.

At some point you can only build so large so we began a multi-site effort to reach more people. We launched four here in the suburbs of Nashville - Smyrna, Stewarts Creek (down on Almadale), Riverdale (off of exit 81), and College Grove; and two international campuses - one in Bangkok and one in Belgium.

Obviously, the name “First Baptist of Smyrna” doesn’t work too well in Belgium so in 2009 the church changed its name to LifePoint to communicate our desire to live lives that point people to Christ.

As you can see, our Lord Jesus has been so faithful to use this church to bring many people to Himself. It’s fun to think about all the people He saved and empowered to grow this church. You’re here today to write the next chapter of this church. We are convinced that He’ll use you just like He used the first 24 members of First Baptist of Smyrna because “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (*Hebrews 13:8*)

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM THE CHURCH?

Expectations of Pastors:

- We commit as pastors within the body of Christ to join LifePoint Church in fulfilling the expectations of church members. Additionally, we commit to the following expectations:
- We will seek God’s guidance for LifePoint in order to steward resources entrusted to the church in a way that gives God glory. (*Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4*)
- We will care for the church and lead with grace, truth, and love. (*Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:15-16; James 5:14; Colossians 1:28*)
- We will teach all of God’s Word at all costs. (*1 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*)
- We will equip members of the church for the work of ministry. (*Ephesians 4:11-16*)
- We will protect the doctrine of LifePoint Church, and we will guard the church against false teachers and false teaching. (*Acts 20:28; Matthew 7:15; 1 Timothy 1:3-7*)
- We will act in a way that is above reproach, making my family the priority of my ministry (*1 Timothy 3:1-7*). We understand the way we live will affect the church we lead, and we will live in a way that elevates the reputation of LifePoint Church.
- We will lead the church in exercising discipline in a way that is gracious and loving, protecting the health of the church as a whole. (*James 5:19-20; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1*)

WHAT SHOULD THE CHURCH EXPECT FROM ME?

As a member of LifePoint Church, I will fulfill the following expectations:

Gather

- I will regularly participate in a weekly worship gathering.
- I will participate in the ordinances prescribed to His Church of baptism and the Lord's supper.

Grow

- I will submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues. (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)
- I will strive to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Below are a few examples of actions addressed in the Scriptures.
- I will practice sexual purity and will strive to abstain from sexual immorality such as complete fidelity within a heterosexual and monogamous marriage. (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, 1 Corinthians 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)
- I will seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation before pursuing divorce from my spouse. (Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-1)
- I will strive to refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful behavior as the Bible dictates. (Romans 1:28-32; Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:3-18)
- I will acknowledge Christian freedoms on non-essential matters (Romans 14:13) such as food, alcohol, music, environment, lighting, programming and preference to promote unity.
- I will follow the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another—the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration. (Matthew 18:15-20)
- I will receive loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers or leaders. (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11)

- I will pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines. (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22)
- I will grow spiritually through regular involvement in groups and classes at LifePoint Church. I understand the purpose of these groups and classes is building authentic community with other believers as well as studying the Bible. (Acts 2:44-47; James 5:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Give

- I will serve Christ through the ministries and mission work of LifePoint Church. I am created to serve others through good works. (Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10)
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents and spiritual gifts by serving people at LifePoint Church. (Titus 3:14)
- I will give to God abundantly and joyfully, recognizing God as the owner of all things (Proverbs 3:9; Psalm 24:1). I will give my tithe to God through LifePoint Church, which will bring me closer to Him. (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 6:19-24)

Go

- I am commanded by God to make disciples of every nation, tribe, people, and language through the local church (Matthew 28:16-20; Revelation 7:9). I will support the church's mission to reach our city as well as the world with the Gospel. (Acts 1:8)
- I will, if I were to leave LifePoint church, discuss my decision with a pastor at LifePoint and immediately join a church where I can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

HOW DO I JOIN LIFEPOINT?

1. Profession of faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

- **How can I have a personal relationship with God?** If you do not know Jesus as your Savior, read the following Scriptures found in the New Testament.
- **Admit:** Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)
- **Believe:** Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life. You are beginning a lifelong relationship with Christ. *"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8)
- **Confess:** We must individually embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. *"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* (Romans 10:13)

2. Believer's Baptism by Immersion.

- Baptism is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection and is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. LifePoint Church baptizes by immersion because Jesus was baptized by immersion. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water. The word "baptize" literally means "to dip under water." *"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized."* (Acts 2:41)
- If you would like to learn more about baptism, go to lifept.org/baptism.

3. Completion of the 1st Step Class.

4. Submission of written statement expressing desire to be a member.

Practically, you'll need to sign the member expectations document that tells us you accept our Statement of Beliefs and Expectations.

Next Steps:

Setup a time to meet with a pastor to:

- answer any questions you have.
- tell them the story of your spiritual journey.
- return the signed member expectations document.

With Christ as my Lord and Savior, being baptized by immersion after my salvation, being led by the Holy Spirit, and being in agreement with LifePoint Church's Expectations, Statement of Faith (i.e. The 2000 Baptist Faith & Message, Nashville Statement, and Danvers Statement), and leadership, I joyfully unite with the church and commit myself to God and the other members.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Pastor/Minister Signature

Date

SMYRNA CAMPUS

506 Legacy Dr. Smyrna, TN 37167

STEWARTS CREEK CAMPUS

5100 Almaville Rd. Smyrna, TN 37167

RIVERDALE CAMPUS

307 Warrior Dr. Murfreesboro, TN 37128

FRANKLIN CAMPUS

4095 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067

BANGKOK CAMPUS

No. 1108/21-24 Sukhumvit Plus 1 Alley, Sukhumvit Road,
Khwaeng Phra Khanong, Khet Khlong Toei, Bangkok 10110

BRUSSELS CAMPUS

Boulevard du Triomphe 173
1160 Auderghem, Belgium