

Independent  
Seventh Day Bible Baptist  
Association

# Membership Application Cover Letter

Dear Christian Friend:

This is your application for membership in our Association. We are grateful for your confidence in us and trust that as you become a member you will assume a place of active Christian service in our body.

This application can be used for churches, families, as well as individuals.

**Please be aware that agreement with our Distinctive Principles and Articles of Faith, and being baptized by immersion as a believer in Christ, are two steps required in the membership process. These steps should be taken before completing a membership application.**

A person must be at least 12 years old to become a member, having first been baptized and instructed by his/her parents or pastor on the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. These fundamental doctrines should cover at least the following core Biblical doctrines and values:

- That the Bible is the inspired, only infallible, authoritative word of God. It is God-breathed, and, therefore, without error in the original documents. The Bible is to be the Christian's guide in all matters of faith and practice. (*2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21*).
- That there is one God, the Father, Our Lord Jesus Christ His Son, and the Holy Spirit. (*2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 8:6*).
- Belief in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His return in power and glory. (*Matthew 1:20-23; 1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Acts 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18*).
- That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ can be

born of the Holy Spirit, and thus become children of God. (*1 Peter 1:18-19; Acts 4:12; John 1:12, Ephesians 2:4-5*).

- That regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for the salvation of lost and sinful man. (*Titus 3:4-7; 1 Corinthians 12:13*).
- Belief in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is able to live a godly life. (*John 16:7-14; Galatians 5:16-26*).
- Belief in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; the saved to the resurrection of life, and the lost to the resurrection of damnation. (*John 5:25, 28-29; Daniel 12:1-2; Revelation 20:11-15*).
- Belief in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Romans 12:4-5; John 17:21-23*).
- Support for the local church, her witness to the whole world, the appropriate use of spiritual gifts, and the observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. (*Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 11:25-29*).

The above points of faith should be clearly understood by all who have been baptized by immersion into Christ, as these are the fundamental truths of the universal Christian Church. Beyond this, it is important that those who choose to join the Independent Seventh Day Baptist Association also understand our Distinctive Principles and Articles of Faith as a people. These are described below:

### **Distinctive Principles**

We hold these distinctive Baptist principles:

1. The absolute Lordship of Christ
2. The supreme authority of the Holy Scriptures
3. The competency of the individual soul (freedom of conscience)
4. The necessity of regeneration for church membership and baptism
5. The complete separation of church and state
6. The autonomy of the local church (congregational polity/priesthood of all believers)

### **Articles of Faith**

We uphold the following fundamental pillars of the Early Christian Church:

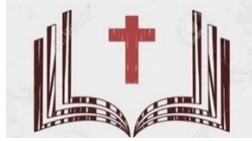
1. Scripture: We believe the Bible to be the inerrant and infallible Word of God; the foundation of all doctrine, the basis of all reform, and the Christian's sole rule of faith and practice. (*2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21*).

2. Salvation: We believe that salvation is the free gift of God through our Lord Jesus Christ; and that sinners are saved by God’s grace alone, through faith alone, and not by works. (*Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16*).
3. Second Coming: We believe in the literal, personal, and visible second coming of Christ in power and great glory, and accompanied by all of the holy angels. (*John 14:3; Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:30-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*).
4. Sabbath: We believe in the binding claims of the 10 Commandment Law of God, including the Seventh-day Sabbath; and that the regenerated Christian will keep Christ’s commandments, not to be saved, but because we love Him. (*Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Luke 23:52-56; Acts 13:42-44; John 14:15*).
5. State of the dead: We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead – both righteous and wicked; that man in his natural state is mortal and subject to death; that death is described in the scriptures as an unconscious “sleep”; and that immortality is a gift of God given to the believer at the resurrection of the just. (*1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 5:28-29; 11:11-14; Ecclesiastes 9:5-6*).
6. Sanctuary: We believe that, upon His bodily ascension, Jesus Christ became our Great High Priest in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary; is seated at the right hand of God; that He ministers in our behalf, offering full pardon for sin and complete atonement through His blood; and ever lives to make intercession for us. (*1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16; 6:19-20; 7:24-25; 9:24; 10:19-20*).
7. Standards: We believe that the New Testament enjoins upon the Christian standards of godly living, and includes the following rules and principles: the union of one man and one wife in marriage covenant; biblical headship of the man in his home and family, and in church leadership; recognition of the biblical view on the value of human life and the blessing of children; modesty of dress and deportment; recognition of the body as the temple of God, and the abstinence of harmful substances – including recreational and/or illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco in all its forms. (*Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 6:1-4; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*).

After you have submitted your completed application, you will be contacted personally by a pastor and given an explanation as to remaining aspects of the membership process. Until that time, our pastors and elders are ready to assist you in dealing with any spiritual need you may have. It is our prayer that together we may unitedly serve the Lord as members of a world-wide spiritual family and household of faith, as those who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (*Revelation 14:12*). May God bless you!

  
Pastor J. Isaac Richards

President, *Independent Seventh Day Bible Baptist Association*



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Seventh Day Bible Baptist  
Association

# Membership Application and Request Form

ONLY ONE APPLICATION NEEDS BE COMPLETED PER CHURCH, INDIVIDUAL,  
OR FAMILY WITH RELATED MEMBERS OF THE SAME HOUSEHOLD.

A SEPARATE APPLICATION MUST BE FILLED OUT FOR UNRELATED PERSONS.

**IF YOU ARE APPLYING AS A CHURCH, PLEASE SKIP TO SECTION B**

## SECTION A: INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Please enter your name as you would like it to appear on your membership certificate and in our church directory. Fill out and return the following information:

*I have received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord, and desire to  
become an active member and support the ministries of the ISDBA.  
Therefore, I hereby apply for membership.*

First and Last Name:	Date of Birth:
Address:	Place of Birth:
Home Phone:	Occupation:
Alternate Phone:	Marital Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Remarried

Email:	Family members in your current household:
*Church previously attended or member of:	Date of Baptism:
Previous Church Address:	Previous Church Phone Number:
Reason for Leaving:	Length of time you were a member:

\*If you were not previously a member of a Church, please indicate "N/A" for "Not-Applicable".

Please fill out the following information for each family member joining:

First and Last Name:	Date of Birth:
Place of Birth:	Date of Baptism:

First and Last Name:	Date of Birth:
Place of Birth:	Date of Baptism:

First and Last Name:	Date of Birth:
Place of Birth:	Date of Baptism:

First and Last Name:	Date of Birth:
Place of Birth:	Date of Baptism:

What attracted you to our church family? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please share with us when, where, and how you received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. You may include Scripture as desired. (Use the back of this page or another piece of paper for extra space if needed): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you followed the Lord in water baptism SINCE you received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord?

Yes

No

If not, ARE YOU WILLING TO IDENTIFY with Christ and His Church publicly through water baptism as part of your commitment to our community of faith?

Yes

No

Are you growing in grace and in your understanding of Scripture and God's will for your life? Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What spiritual gifts (abilities) do you believe the Holy Spirit has given you to use for building up the Body of Christ? (See Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In what ways can we, as church, minister more effectively to your spiritual needs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

MY COMMITMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT SEVENTH DAY BIBLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION:

- I affirm my personal faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord and agree with the ISDBA Articles of Faith.
- I voluntarily choose to join this Association and body of believers, and agree to uphold the mission of the ISDBA.

My name and today's date (mm/dd/yy) below indicate my desire to join in membership with the Independent Seventh Day Bible Baptist Association:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional baptized family members:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please scan and email this completed form to: **support@isdba.org**

Or mail to:

**Independent Seventh Day Bible Baptist Association (or ISDBA)**  
**HC01 Box 120**  
**Gakona, AK 99586**

Once your application is received, you will be contacted by one of our pastors by phone to help answer any questions you may have and to discuss your membership. Upon approval, you will then receive a Membership Certificate for each member applying.

We look forward to you joining our family. Welcome home!

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Office Use Only

Interview by Administrative Pastor: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Administrative Pastor Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Received into Membership: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## SECTION B: CHURCH ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Please enter your Church name as you would like it to appear on your membership certificate and in our church directory. Fill out and return the following information:

*We are a Bible-believing, Sabbath-keeping Church, upholding Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,  
and desire to become an active member and support the ministries of the ISDBA.  
Therefore, we hereby apply for membership.*

Church Information	Pastor Information
Church Name:	Name of Pastor or Church Leader:
Address:	Date of Birth:
Office Phone:	Place of Birth:
Alternate Phone:	Occupation (if bi-vocational or not full time):
Email:	Marital Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Remarried
*Church denomination previously a member of:	Family members in current household:
Length of time Church was a member:	Date of Baptism:
Reason for Leaving:	Length of time pastoring Church:

\*If your Church was not previously a member of a denomination, please indicate "N/A" for "Not-Applicable".

What attracted you to our Association? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please share with us your Church story: how you got started, how your Church learned about the Sabbath, and anything else you feel is important for us to understand about your Church family. You may include Scripture as desired. (Use the back of this page or another piece of paper for extra space if needed): \_\_\_\_\_



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How has your Church grown in grace and in the understanding of Scripture? Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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What spiritual gifts (abilities) do you believe the Holy Spirit has given your Church to use for building up the Body of Christ and in doing service for Him? (See Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4): \_\_\_\_\_

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In what ways can we, as an Association, minister more effectively to your Church's spiritual needs and support your vision for ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

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OUR COMMITMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT SEVENTH DAY BIBLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION:

- We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and agree with the ISDBA Articles of Faith.
- We voluntarily choose to join this Association and body of believers, and agree to uphold the mission of the ISDBA.

The name(s) and today's date (mm/dd/yy) below indicate our desire to join in membership with the Independent Seventh Day Bible Baptist Association:

Signature of Pastor or Church Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional witnesses (Associate Pastors, Elders, or Board Members as necessary):

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please scan and email this completed form to: **support@isdba.org**

Or mail to:

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**HC01 Box 120**  
**Gakona, AK 99586**

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We look forward to you joining our family. Welcome home!

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Interviewed by Administrative Pastor: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Administrative Pastor Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Received into Membership: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_