

SOUTH CHURCH

5250 Cornerstone Drive
Lansing, MI 48917
517-322-2000; www.southlife.org

Application for Adult Bible Community Teacher

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read the attached Qualifications of an Adult Bible Community Teacher and Doctrinal Statement
2. You may be asked to meet with the CE Council at one of its regular sessions.
3. Return this form to Pastor Phillips or Pastor Cuthbert.

Today's date: _____

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ **Secondary Phone:** _____

Email: _____ **Are you a member of South Church?** _____

Current Marital Status _____ **Have you ever been divorced?** _____

Previous / current teaching or ministry experience? When, where and what did/do you do?

Are you currently involved in an Adult Bible Community, Growth Group or other Small Group at South? _____

When do you normally worship with us? 9:35AM _____ 10:55AM _____ 11:05AM _____ 6 PM _____

Testimony: Please write out your conversion experience on the back of this sheet or a separate sheet.

Doctrinal Statement of South Church:

South Church requires all Adult Bible Community teachers to sign below indicating their agreement with our doctrinal statement and that they are sincerely seeking to live in keeping with the values and standards of Biblical Christianity (as reflected in the Teacher & Leader Qualifications attached):

Signature: _____

Recommending South Church Pastor: _____

Notes: _____

Please write your testimony of conversion here or on another sheet of paper as necessary.

South Church Teacher & Leader Qualifications

1. Character of Teachers & Leaders

a. Christian Character

- i. **Galatians 5:22-26** ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.
- ii. **1 Corinthians 11:1** Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.
- iii. **Titus 2:7-8** ⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸ and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

b. Church Member in Good Standing

- i. **Acts 2:44-47** ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
- ii. **Hebrews 10:25** ⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
- iii. **Romans 12:6-8** ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

c. Submission/Rightly Related to the Pastoral Staff & Christian Education Council

- i. **Hebrews 13:17** ¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

2. Convictions of Teachers & Leaders

a. Affirmation of and Commitment to the Doctrinal Statement of South Church

- i. **1 Timothy 4:16** ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.
- ii. **Titus 1:9** ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

3. Competence of Teachers

a. Giftedness Affirmed by Pastoral Leadership

- i. **1 Timothy 4:14** ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.
- ii. **2 Timothy 1:6** ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

b. Experience

- i. **1 Timothy 3:8-13** ⁸ Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁹ They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ They must first be

tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. ¹¹ In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. ¹² A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. ¹³ Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

ii. **Hebrews 5:11-14** ¹¹ We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. ¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

c. Reliability

i. **2 Timothy 2:2** ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

ii. **James 3:1** Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

South Church Doctrinal Statement

We believe "that if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10.9-10

WE BELIEVE IN THE ONE TRUE GOD who is perfect, infinite, and eternal in His being, in His holiness, love, knowledge, wisdom and power. He is Creator of the universe and sovereign over all, yet everywhere present in all of creation. He is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in one. (Genesis 1.1; Exodus 15.11; Psalms 8.1-6, 19.1-4, 139.7-10; Matthew 28.19; John 4.23-24, 5.26, 10.30)

WE BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST who is the second person of the Triune God, the eternal Word and only Begotten Son; that without any change in his divine person, he became man by miracle of the virgin birth. He gave himself in substitutionary death upon the cross, bearing the sin of the world, and suffering its full penalty in our stead; that he arose from the grave in a glorified body; he ascended into heaven where he is our high priest and advocate. (Job 19.25; Matthew 1.18-25; John 1.1, 14; 3.16; Romans 5.18-19; I Corinthians 15.3-7; Galatians 4.4-5; Philippians 2.6-10; Hebrews 4.14-16; I John 2.1-2)

WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT who is the third person of the Trinity, and the divine agent in nature, revelation and redemption; that his ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, convict the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment; that he regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals, and anoints all who become children of God through Christ; that he further empowers, guides, teaches, sanctifies, and fills believers who daily surrender to him. (John 3.3-6; 14.16-17, 26; 16.7-14; Romans 8.9, 11, 16; I Corinthians 3.16-17, 12.13; II Corinthians 3.18; 5.17; Galatians 5.16, 22-25; Ephesians 1.13-14)

WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURE accepting fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God, the only infallible and authoritative rule of faith, life, and conduct. (Psalm 119.105, 133, 160; Proverbs 30.5a; II Timothy 3.16-17; II Peter 1.19-21)

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE BY NATURE AND BY CHOICE SINFUL AND THEREFORE LOST AND ALIENATED BY GOD; that Adam and Eve were the direct creation of God, made in his image and likeness; that by personal disobedience to the revealed will of God, they became sinful creatures, the parents of a fallen race; that all people within themselves have no possible means of achieving salvation and are under the righteous judgment and wrath of God. (Genesis 1.27, 3.6; Psalm 51.5; Isaiah 53.6; 64.6; Jeremiah 17.9; Romans 3.23; 5.12; Ephesians 2.1-3)

WE BELIEVE IN SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH; that salvation is the free gift of God, neither merited nor secured by any virtue or work of mankind, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and that the redeemed shall never perish. (John 1.12; 10.28-29; Romans 8.1, 10.9-10; Ephesians 2.8-9; Philippians 1.6; Titus 3.5)

WE BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF SATAN, a created angelic being who through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God, thus becoming totally depraved, the great adversary of God and his people, leader of all evil angels, the deceiver and ruler of this present world: that his final doom is certain; that we are able to resist and overcome him only in the armor of God, by the blood of the Lamb and through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 14.12-15; Ephesians 6.12-17; I Peter 5.8; I John 3.8; Revelation 12.9-11; 20.10)

WE BELIEVE IN THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST; that his coming is imminent and personal; that he will pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world; and that he will establish his glorious kingdom over all the nations for a thousand years. (I Thessalonians 4.13-18; Hebrews 10.37; James 5.8; Jude 14,15; Revelation 19.11-16; 20.4-7)

WE BELIEVE IN FUTURE LIFE, BODILY RESURRECTION, AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT; that the souls and spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Jesus Christ in Heaven, while the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, thereupon they shall be judged and cast into Hell, the place of final and everlasting punishment. (Job 19.25-27; Luke 16.19-23; I Corinthians 4.5; 15.12-58; II Corinthians 5.8-10; Revelation 20.11-15)

WE BELIEVE IN THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS; that every born-again person has direct access to God without the need of a human priest because Christ is our great high priest; that the believer has the right and responsibility to personally study the Scriptures and to pray. (John 14.6; I Timothy 2.5; II Timothy 2.15; Hebrews 4.16; I Peter 2.1,5,9)

WE BELIEVE IN THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST. He alone is head of the Church which is his body into which all true believers are immediately baptized (placed) by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2.36; I Corinthians 12.12-13; II Corinthians 5.15; Galatians 2.20; Ephesians 1.20-23; 4.11-15; Philippians 2.9-11)

WE BELIEVE IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH; that a New Testament church is a local assembly of born-again, baptized believers united in organization to meet for worship of God, prayer, fellowship, teaching, a united testimony, and to actively engage in carrying out the Great Commission. (Matthew 28.19-20; Acts 2.41-42; Hebrews 10.24-25)

WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHURCH HAS BEEN GIVEN SPIRITUAL GIFTS to fulfill its God-ordained mission of edification and evangelism. These include gifted persons who are given for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry and spiritual gifts which each member of the body of Christ received from the Holy Spirit at the time of salvation. We do believe that God can perform miracles today and that he can and does heal. Scripture indicates that several of the sign gifts were foundational to the church and to authenticate the ministry of the Apostles. (Romans 12.4-8; I Corinthians 1.22-23; 12.1-11; 13.8; II Corinthians 12.12; Ephesians 4.11-12)

WE BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY ORDINANCES GIVEN TO THE LOCAL CHURCH ARE BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER; that Baptism is by immersion of believers, thus portraying the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and cup by the believer as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. (Matthew 26.26-30; 28.19-20; Acts 2.41-42; 8.37-38; I Corinthians 11.23-34)

WE BELIEVE IN THE INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH. Each New Testament church is free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference, and should cooperate with other New Testament churches as the Holy Spirit leads; that it is responsible to follow the pattern of the New Testament church and is directly accountable to God. (Acts 13.1-3; 15.22-23; I Thessalonians 5.12-14; I Timothy 3.1-13; Titus 1.5-9)

Source: South Church Constitution and by-laws