



## How to become a member of the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association.

### Why Join the RGVBA?

The RGVBA exists to create, develop and foster strategic partnerships that help churches fulfill God's mission in their context. The RGVBA will accomplish this by:

- Facilitating opportunities for churches to partner together in mission.
- Generating leadership development and educational opportunities for leaders in congregations.
- Provide connections for the discovery of resources that foster church health.
- Foster partnerships that result in community ministries and missions mobilization.

In short, we believe God can do more through us together than separately.

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### Membership Qualifications:

- Churches shall be regularly constituted, independent bodies organized on generally accepted principles common to Southern Baptists.
- The policy of church government for each church shall be congregational.
- The pastors of member churches shall preach and their congregations endorse such doctrines generally believed by Southern Baptists to be taught in the Bible.
- Each church shall cooperate in the fellowship and purpose of the Association and shall contribute regularly to the financial support of the Association by giving at least \$250.00 per year in undersigned donations to the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association.
- Each church shall be a member of only one local association, the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association.

### Reception into the Fellowship:

New churches are recommended to be admitted during the RGVBA's annual meeting (last week of October). Recommendation must be carried by a 75% majority roll call vote of the messengers present.

Any new church desiring representation in the Association shall be at least one year old at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Association. Application shall be made at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting of the Association through a petitionary letter stating:

- The manner by which the church was constituted.
- That the church has adopted the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message.
- That the church is contributing to the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and/or the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program.

A mission that has become a church must have been constituted a church at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Association and application shall be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Association through a petitionary letter.

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### Needed to begin membership:

- Submit a petitionary letter.
- Submit a completed RGVBA Membership Application.
- Church's Constitution and Bylaws. (RGVBA will help with writing constitution/bylaws, if needed)
- Church's Doctrinal Statement. (Provide a doctrinal statement or acknowledge agreement with the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message.)



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association.

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Church Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Website or Facebook \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church Contact \_\_\_\_\_ (pastor, secretary, etc)

Church Contact's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor is (check any that apply) \_\_\_\_\_ Full-Time at church \_\_\_\_\_ Part-Time at the church \_\_\_\_\_ Bi-vocational

Pastor's Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Faith is best summarized by:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1963 Baptist Faith and Message
\_\_\_\_\_ Our own written statement (please attach)

Is the church affiliated with a convention? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

- \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT)
\_\_\_\_\_ Southern Baptist of Texas Convention (SBTC)
\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas (HBCT)

Our church understands the responsibilities and privileges of membership in the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association (RGVBA) and is committed to working in harmony with the other member churches.

We understand cooperation in this Association involves participation in the ministry of the Association, involvement in the work of the Executive Board, and the giving of regular financial contributions to the work of the Association.

We further understand that we will remain in doctrinal harmony with and in full support of the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association's Constitution and By-Laws.

The people (signatures) below have been authorized by the congregation according to the appropriate procedures in the church's by-laws to pursue and engage the church in membership with the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor's Signature / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Another Congregational Representative's Signature / Title / Date