

Converge Great Lakes

Great Lakes Baptist Conference

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Greetings in Jesus' name! Thank you for considering affiliating with Converge Great Lakes (CGL). Here is a brief memo about the process and the documents needed to become a member church. Please contact us for more information.

1. The Strengthening Task Force of the Board of Overseers is notified by the Regional President concerning a church's interest in affiliation. In the case of a new church plant, the Regional President would contact the church planter and coach.
2. The Regional President and the applying church, arranges a preliminary meeting to discuss the affiliation process.
3. The church is to provide the following documents:
 - Incorporation papers
 - Evidence of Federal & State tax exemption status
 - A brief historical summary of the church
 - A recent financial report
 - Membership list
 - Constitution & By-Laws
 - A copy of the church's minutes requesting affiliation
 - A letter affirming that the church:
 - i. Subscribes without reservation to the Converge Affirmation of Faith
 - ii. Accepts and practices only believers' baptism by immersion required for all voting members
 - iii. Affirms the Mission Statements of CGL and Converge Worldwide
 - iv. Will practice Baptist polity, including congregational authority for at least major capital expenses, call/dismissal of the Senior Pastor, and modifications to the church constitution
 - v. Will participate through prayer, financial and personal involvement in the mission & ministries of the national and district conference
4. The Regional President or his designee meets with the pastor and the leaders of the church to review all documents at the appointed time if necessary.
5. After the Chairman and the Regional President have determined that the church is ready to proceed with Affiliation, the Regional President will send all documents to the Strengthening Task Force of the Board of Overseers.
6. The Strengthening Task Force may then choose to make one of the following recommendations to the full CGL Board of Overseers:
 - The church is prepared to become a member and meets all of the minimum requirements.
 - The church needs to do further work on some matters and has agreed to work with the committee to make needed changes. The Strengthening Task Force will report back to the Overseers at some future date.
 - The church does not meet the minimum requirements defined above and the task force will not recommend the church for membership at this time.
7. If recommended, the church will send representatives to the next CGL Annual Meeting and will be affirmed in vote to become a fully affiliated church.