This guide is also available online at www.southernbaptistchurch.org

Dr. Donté L. Hickman, Sr.
Pastor

Congregational Care & Commitment Guide
Greetings From The Pastor

To God be the glory for the great things he continues to do. It is with great pleasure that I present to you our first Congregational Care and Commitment Guide. This has been a work in process for several years of starting and stopping. But, thank God, we are now able to provide our members with a roadmap through the ministry of our church. With this guide, you will be able to access and participate in this ministry in which God has called you to be a part of.

It is our prayer that this will be a tool that will help you to connect with quality people and find your productive place in our family of faith. We want you to see that we are a church of high expectations of ourselves and you toward Kingdom excellence. God always gives the best gifts, and we want to follow the example of Christ and model excellence.

Please know that membership really does have its privileges. You are a part of us, and we want you to know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you are in the right church, with the right people, with the right Pastor, serving the right God! And so, on behalf of the First Family, the leadership, and the discipleship of Southern Baptist Church, welcome to the home of “Doing Greater Works!” I’m looking forward to being your Pastor as we journey together in the ministry of Jesus Christ.
Our Church in Retrospect

Jesus said “Upon this rock I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”

The late Rev. James R. Coel, the pastor of a circuit of North Carolina churches, relocated to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1926 to become the Pastor of Fountain Baptist Church. After 5 years of serving, Rev. Coel resigned his position; and he and his members met in homes to form the Southern Baptist Church. The first service was held on April 5, 1931, with 250 to 275 members on Mulliken and Spring Streets.

After moving to several locations during the depression years, Pastor Coel’s health began to fail. Rev. James R. Grant was asked to take up the mantle. After Pastor Coel’s death on June 21, 1937, Rev. James R. Grant was elected Pastor.

The church grew under Pastor Grants leadership and became state incorporated in 1941 and was able to purchase the building at Bond and Preston Street in 1942. Because of the growth, the membership decided to purchase the 1700 block of Chester Street property with the God given mission to build a new edifice.

Rev. Nathaniel Higgs was called by God and preached his trial sermon under Rev. Grant. In November 1966, Rev. Higgs was elected Pastor after Pastor Grant was called from earth to reward on October 4, 1965. Under his leadership, the church took on many innovations such as, developing choirs, expanding ministries and being first to create an Early Morning Worship. Through prayer and the grace of God, Southern kept moving forward. On June 4, 1072, under the guidance of Pastor Nathaniel Higgs, the congregation moved from Preston and Bond Street to 1701 North Chester Street. On June 5, 1977, we burned a 30-year mortgage in four years and 11 months. At the turn of a new millennium, the church built the Cole, Grant, Higgs, Senior Housing Complex providing sixty units of senior housing.

On Sunday, October 6, 2002, Rev. Donté Hickman was presented to the congregation as the newly elected pastor. On January 1, 2003, Pastor Hickman and the leadership/membership created a mission statement for the church, reconstructed and expanded ministries, and remodeled the church to maximize the ministry’s capacity and capabilities. Through his God inspired leadership, Pastor Hickman has extended the church’s outreach to local and global evangelism through community outreach, broadcast services, as well as capturing the souls of our entire state through Multi-site Ministry. We are now, “One Church in Multiple Locations.”
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"But let all things be done decently and in order." - (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Weather Related Emergencies

When an emergency weather event occurs, please call the church office, access the church’s website, and monitor the local news report to be informed of schedule changes/delays and/or church closings.
Vision and Mission Statement

Who Are We (Our Identity)
We are a global, multi-generational, biblically-grounded Church with an Old School Flavor and a New School Feel.

Where Are We Going (Our Vision)
We will be Growing Committed Disciples—Realizing The Kingdom, Making Excellence the Standard.

How Will We Get There (Our Mission)
We are committed to encouraging people to faith in Christ, experiencing the presence of God, educating believers, embracing family values, and equipping disciples for spirit-filled leadership and living.

What Will We Hold On To (Our Values)
We will hold on to the spirit of Excellence-Respect -Integrity-Communication and Unity.

What Will We Do In the Mean Time (Our Objectives)
We will fulfill our vision and mission by exposing our leadership and laity to progressive churches and conferences, enhancing our teaching ministries, employing skilled staff who embrace our values, encouraging faithful giving, and expanding the visibility of our ministry.

FACILITIES AND BUILDING PROCEDURES

“But let all things be done decently and in order.” - (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Evacuation Plan—SBC Harford County Location/Regal BelAir Cinema #6

When an emergency situation arises, the first priority is to have worshippers and staff evacuate the building safely. This guide identifies general steps to take. It is understood that each situation is unique and that people must use common sense and good judgment in all situations. There may be multiple reasons to evacuate a building such as fire, smoke, gas leak, and water leak. Listed below are the steps necessary for an orderly evacuation.

- In case of emergency - call 911 immediately. Report the nature of the emergency
- Activate the building fire alarm system by pulling the closest pull station. Pull stations are red boxes located near each exit in the building. Activation will cause notification to the fire department.
- Begin to direct worshippers out of the building through the closest exit door. Doors are located on both sides of the projection screen. Persons seated on the upper level can be directed through both the front and rear exits. Ushers, Deacons, Security, and Staff should direct the flow. Handicapped persons should be prioritized. After evacuating, everyone should move as far away from the building as possible.
Evacuation Plan—SBC Chester Street location/ Baltimore City

Summary-

To safely and efficiently evacuate worshippers and staff during an emergency.

When an emergency situation arises, the first priority is to have worshippers and staff evacuate the building safely. This guide identifies general steps to take. It is understood that each situation is unique and that people must use common sense and good judgment in all situations. There may be multiple reasons to evacuate a building such as fire, smoke, gas leak, and water leak. Listed below are the steps necessary for an orderly evacuation.

Steps-

- In case of emergency - call 911 immediately. Report the nature of the emergency.

- Activate the building fire alarm system by pulling the closest pull station. Pull stations are red boxes located near each exit in the building. Activation will cause notification to the fire department.

- Begin to direct worshippers out of the building through the closest exit door or stairwell leading to an exit door. The Choir will exit using the door to the right of the pulpit. Persons seated in the front portion of the Sanctuary will exit through the door to the right of the pulpit and via the stairwell to the lower level. Persons seated in the rear will exit through the rear right door and via the stairwell to the lower level. Ushers, Deacons, Security, and Staff should direct the flow. Handicapped and disabled persons will be assisted as needed. After evacuating, everyone should move as far away from the building as possible.
Virtual Campus Ministry

We invite you to log on and take a virtual tour of our church. To access our website, log onto www.southernbaptistchurch.org. On our website you will find information about our Pastor, community development, ministries, and opportunities to volunteer and support. You will have a front row seat to our worship encounter through our internet television components as well as the opportunity to support the ministry via tithes and offerings.

IMPLEMENTING NEW MINISTRIES

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, administration, varieties of tongues. (1 Cor. 12:27,28)

Summary-

As we continue to grow and expand as a healthy church there may arise needs for new ministries to address various issues. We don't want to be just an impressive church but an impactful ministry. To that end, we invite your suggestions and ideas.

Steps-

In order to identify and implement potential new ministry ideas, please submit a written proposal to the Minister to Auxiliaries/Ministries. The proposal should include the purpose of the ministry, the people who might serve in the ministry, the research and capacity for the ministry, and the plan to carry the ministry out. Keep in mind that while you may have a suggestion or idea for the ministry it must coincide and support the overall vision of the church. Once the proposal is submitted, it will be prayerfully reviewed by the Board of Directors to determine the capacity for the ministry in the specific season.
Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, administration, varieties of tongues.—(1 Cor. 12:27,28)

Seasoned Saints Ministry - This Ministry provides an opportunity for fellowship, learning, activities and support for seniors of our church and community.

Women’s Ministry - This Ministry provides an opportunity for fellowship, activities, and support for Women of our church and community.

Ministries of Service-

Culinary - This Ministry provides physical nourishment to the church on Sundays and are often called upon to cater various functions held in the church.

Doorkeepers/Ushers - This Ministry is responsible for directing all guests and members throughout the facilities, seating people throughout the sanctuary and helping to facilitate order throughout the services.

First Aid - This ministry provides interim emergency assistance to those in need pending ambulatory services.

Hospitality - This Ministry serves with a spirit of “Extreme Kindness” to make all people feel welcome as they enter our church.

Pastor’s Aide - This Ministry provides spiritual care and support to the Pastor and his family.

Project 100 - This Ministry provides physical nourishments, personal essentials and educational services to families in need.

Security - This Ministry provides security and safety to the Pastor, members, guests, church property, and facilities.

Social Services - This Ministry facilitates the application process of our member’s for assistance and guides them to the appropriate resources.

Calendar of Events

January
Leadership Consecration

February
Black History Month Celebration
Lenten Season Observance

March
Cleo Johnson/Keith Finch
Musical Celebration

April
Youth and Young Adult Emphasis
Easter Sunday
Good Friday Services
Resurrection Celebration

May
Ushers Celebration
New Wine Experience

June
Church Anniversary Celebration
Educational Achievement Day
Summer Breeze

July
Church Outdoor Extravaganza
Summer Arts and Athletic Enrichment Camp

August
Back to School Bash

September
Church-wide Institute

October
Pastors Anniversary
Simultaneous Revival

November
Men and Women Day
Thanksgiving Day Service
Feeding the Families (Project 100)

December
Christmas Fellowship
Christmas in the Community
Christmas Day Service
Watchnight Services
Jesus said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for such is of the Kingdom of God.” - (Matthew 19:14)

**Baby/Child Dedication**

**Summary**-

The Life of a child is a precious gift of God that is entrusted into the care of parents who would be responsible to train that child in the way they should go. The first priority Christian parents should have is to prayerfully dedicate their children's lives to the power and purpose of God. Therefore, when the children reach the time of their personal accountability they will have some understanding and desire to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their lives.

Here at Southern, we believe that it is the right of every parent to dedicate their child to God regardless of membership or marriage. Children are innocent and pure before the Lord and should never bear the consequences of our mistakes.

**Steps**-

If you would like to have your child dedicated, you must make an appointment through our administrative office to attend a baby dedication workshop that will express the purpose, the prayer, and the process of the ceremony. We prefer both parents to attend whether married or not. After completing the workshop, a date will be secured during one of our communion services in which the child will be publicly dedicated. You are encouraged to invite all of your family and friends to stay the entire worship service and witness this very significant moment in the life of your child. The age for child dedication is from 6 months. Baby dedication does not take the place of confession unto salvation, but it is the beginning of covering your child with the grace and love of God.

**Intercessory Prayer Ministry** - This Ministry communicates with God to spiritually cover the Pastor and his family and helps to cultivate a worshipful atmosphere for souls to be saved, where God’s presence is manifested, and lives impacted and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

**Music and Choral Arts Ministry** - This Ministry prepares the congregation for worship and the spoken word through song, dance, praise and creative expression.

**Step Team** - This Ministry is a performing art designed to uplift people in worship.

**Ministries of Discipleship**-

- **Spiritual Formation/New Member Orientation**
- **Growing Committed Disciples Institute (G.C.D.I.)**
- **Ministerial /Leadership Development**
- **Life Application Workshops**
- **Church-wide Institute**

**Ministries of Fellowship**-

- **Another Generation of Glory** - (A.G.G.) Ministry is established to cultivate a dynamic group of youth and young adults in our church and communities to become healthy disciples of Jesus Christ doing greater works.

- **Men’s Ministry** - This Ministry provides an opportunity for fellowship, studying, activities, and support for Men of our church and community.
MATCHING YOUR GIFTS WITH YOUR MINISTRY

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, administration, varieties of tongues. -(1 Cor. 12:27,28)

Ministries of Evangelism-

College Campus Ministries - This Ministry provides Christian witness of Christ in the community and college campuses engaging people to accept Christ as savior and become a part of a local church.

Marketplace Ministry - This Ministry provides Christian witness in the community and shopping areas engaging people to accept Christ as savior and become a part of a local church.

Marketing/Media Technology Ministry - This Ministry provides technological services and supports that enhances the worship services and exposes the ministry to the global community.

Miracles on Chester Street Ministry - This Ministry facilitates deliverance and spiritual guidance towards freedom from substance abuse.

Prison Ministry - This Ministry provides spiritual support and encouragement for the incarcerated.

Ministries of Worship-

Children's Church - This Ministry provides sacred space and spiritually relevant resources for children ages 4-11 during Sunday Morning Worship.

Dance Ministry - This Ministry is a performance art that is a biblical expression of worship.

Friday Night Fire - This is a worship experience where youth and college aged students express their worship through mime, dance, singing, preaching and praising in their own unique style and energy.

MEMBER CARE SERVICES

Therefore we are buried with Him by Baptismal into death: that like Christ was raised from the dead by glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of like.” -(Romans 6:4)

Baptism

Summary-

Baptism is the right and responsibility of every believer in Jesus Christ. While baptism doesn't save you from your sins, it is a symbolic practice that represents an inward submission to the Holy Spirit of God. As Baptist, we believe that since Christ was baptized we should identify with him symbolically and spiritually burying our old selves and sins and rising to our new life in Christ.

Steps-

Our baptisms are held one hour prior to our communion services. Each new disciple must attend our workshop on baptism to attain a complete, understanding of its purpose and practices. Once the workshop is completed you will then be ready for baptism. We believe that there is no difference between being baptized in Jesus name or in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. For Jesus said, "When you have seen me you have seen the Father, for I and the Father are one.” (John 14:9) We believe baptism must be done willingly and advisedly. Absolutely no one will be baptized against their will and without accepting Christ as their Savior for themselves. However, baptism and completion of the spiritual formation seminar is required to obtain the full privileges of membership by way of the right hand of fellowship.
Conflict Reporting and Resolutions

Summary-

The strength of the Church comes from all members, who are committed to working together on the basis of mutual trust, support and respect. Every member, guest, and visitor of Southern Baptist church has a right to be treated with respect and dignity and a responsibility to treat others the same way. While the expectation is to treat all with “Extreme Kindness,” the minimum acceptable practice is to treat all with respect. If a situation or conflict arises that cannot be mutually resolved between the two parties, the following steps should be taken:

Steps-

Issue under the responsibility of a church ministry

The two individuals try to resolve the conflict. If unsuccessful, do the following:

- Schedule a meeting with the Ministry leaders to seek resolution.
- The Ministry leaders and at least one other church leader will participate in the requested meeting.
- The applicable leaders will review and come back with a documented response/resolution within one week of hearing the complaint.

Issue outside of the responsibility of a church ministry

The two individuals try to resolve the conflict. If unsuccessful, do the following

- Schedule a meeting with one of the churches Deacons to seek resolution.
- The Deacon and at least one other church leader will participate in the requested meeting.
- The applicable leaders will review and come back with a documented response/resolution within one week of hearing the complaint.

*All complaints responses and resolutions will be documented and filed in the administrative records of the church for review.
**MINISTRY SUPPORT AND STEWARDSHIP**

*But this I say, He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver. -*(2 Cor. 9:6-7)*

**Educational Scholarship** - This offering can be given throughout the year and at special services designed for the support of the scholarship ministry. These offerings enable our church to provide financial support to our young people who graduate high school, enroll in college, and maintain our standards of excellence in education. *(Galatians 6:10)*

**Annual Day Giving** - These offerings are special sacrifices given in honor of special days in the life of the church such as Church Anniversary, Men and Women’s Day, Youth and Young Adult Day, etc. These offerings are used to support the ongoing ministry operations of the church. *(Luke 6:38)*

**Special Offerings** - From time to time at the prompting of the Holy Spirit in revivals and worship encounters alike, a special sacrificial offering may be requested. These offerings are used to meet all of the expenses of the specific event. *(Acts 20:35)*

*Your financial contributions are documented and made available to you upon your request. The official board reserves the right to appropriate all contributions as necessary.*

**MEMBER CARE SERVICES**

*For as often “As you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.” -*(1Corinthians 11:26)*

**Holy Communion**

**Summary** -

Before Jesus was crucified he had what is known as, “The Last Supper” with his disciples where he instituted the sacred practice of communion. It is a time to reflect on his sacrifice for our salvation, restore ruptured relationships and repent of our sins. We believe that we can partake of communion at any time because the scripture says, "As often as you do this...” *(1Corinthians 11:25)*

**Steps** -

We collectively partake of Holy Communion during the middle of the week as a special service of commitment and sacrifice as well as to closely align ourselves to when Jesus initiated it. We believe communion should only be practiced by those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

**Symbols** -

We use the symbols of unleavened bread and grape juice to represent the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
Home-Going Celebration

Summary-
As Christians, we believe that death is more than a separation, it is a transition. The Bible says of every believer that, "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord," 2 Corinthians 5:8. To that end, we strive to provide our members with proper care toward celebratory services of remembrance of loved ones who have gone before us into the glory of the Lord. It is always helpful to your family and friends if you prepare them concerning your wishes and the procedures of your church upon your life's transition.

Steps-
Upon your transition or the transition of a loved one someone should call our administrative office to make us aware immediately. Our ministerial staff will be assigned to you promptly to offer you and/or your family presence, prayer and support. Our ministerial staff will come to your home to pray with the family and assist you in making the appropriate programmatic plans for the service. Our ministerial staff will accompany you on the day of the funeral from your home to the church and to the interment offering the prescribed services of care and support. We also provide resolutions upon your request. Resolutions are a declaration of our love and prayerful support to the family and friends of the deceased.
**Phase III**

**Ministerial And Leadership Development**
These course offerings are primarily for those persons who have demonstrated spiritual maturity, ministry callings, and discernable characteristics of potential servant-leaders within Southern Baptist Church. We hold classes for Ministers in Training, Deacons in Training and Leadership Development. These classes cannot be taken without completing the Spiritual Formation/New Member Orientation Seminar and the Growing Committed Discipleship Institute.

**Electives**

**Life Application Workshops**
These seminars and workshops are offered throughout the year engaging specific topics. These topics include, but are not limited to, Financial Health, Health and Fitness, Marriage and Family, Single, Satisfied, and Still Seeking, and many others. These classes are designed to engage, enlighten, and empower you socially to live a life of Kingdom purpose and excellence. These classes can be taken at your personal discretion.

**Church-wide Institute**
This encounter is a two to five day time of instruction in the Word on a particular subject. We gather as a large congregational class to experience teaching that transforms us toward continuing to fulfill our vision. The subjects of this institute are built around our five fold mission of evangelism, worship, discipleship, fellowship, and stewardship. This institute takes place every September to begin our Fall Season in learning the Word of God. This institute is for members and non-members alike. It may require registration for fee or non-fee, whichever may apply.

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“**Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** - (2 Timothy 2:15)

“**Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”** - (Genesis 2:24)
“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” - (Galatians 6:10)

**Project 100**

**Summary**-

Southern Baptist Church and the Maryland Food Bank have partnered in an effort to reach out to families in need during these difficult economic times. The resultant program, Project 100, has been designed to assist families over a four week period from a financial and educational standpoint.

**Steps**-

Participating families are required to attend a one hour workshop once a week in exchange for health and beauty products, non perishable foods and meats. Participants are also required to commit to using monies saved on health and beauty products and food to pay down a household bill. The workshops are designed to impart knowledge that can be used to help families move towards self sufficiency. Some of the topics that will be covered are Financial Empowerment, Pay Yourself First Budgeting, Meal Planning for Saving, and To Your Credit. It is our goal to feed 100 families during the course of the program.

“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” - (2 Timothy 2:15)

**Course Title - Bible Study Methods**
12 Proven Bible methods that will enable you to study the Bible on your own.
9 Weeks

**Course Title - The Fruit of the Spirit Becoming the Person God Wants you to Be**
This course is designed to expose every believer to the resource of the Holy Spirit within their spirit.
9 Weeks

**Course Title - 19 Gifts of the Spirit**
Each student will develop an understanding of the gifts of the Spirit while discovering their innate and divinely inspired gifts for ministry.
7 Weeks

**Course Title - Stewardship of Self**
Understand and Apply Principle of Tithes, Offering, First Fruit Offering, Sacrificial Offering, and Project Based Giving.
6 Weeks

**Course Title - Celebration of Discipline**
Students will learn how to practice the presence of God in their everyday lives through 12 spiritual disciplines.
9 Weeks

**Course Title - Bible Doctrine Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith**
This course seeks to establish the foundational principles of the Christian faith. Every student will learn the importance of knowing what they believe and why.
15 Weeks
“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” - (2 Timothy 2:15)

Week 5: Fellowship with Believers
This lesson is designed to teach you how to forgive, accept, and love one another.

Week 6: Witness to the World
This lesson is designed to teach you how to serve like Jesus.

The conclusion phase is an overview of the Congregational Care and Commitment Guide.

Phase II
Growing Committed Disciples Institute- (G.C.D.I.)

Summary-
Discipleship is the foundational tool used to fulfill the mission and vision of Southern Baptist Church, according to the Great Commission. Discipleship assists in fulfilling the vision of Southern Baptist Church to empower disciples. Discipleship is a 21 month process that engages Christians to study the Word of God and also apply its principles and purpose to their daily lives.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we have designed a 21 month process that will equip every believer to discover, develop, and demonstrate Jesus Christ in the world. The Discipleship process will provide every student an opportunity to experience theological training, transformational teaching, biblical branding, and practical principles of the Christian faith to enable them to be substantive citizens of the kingdom of God, built up unto every good work, rightly dividing the Word of truth. Our discipleship process will engage the following format: Basic Training, Biblical Teaching, and Believer’s Transformation.

Course Title - Experiencing God Knowing and Doing the Will of God
Each student will know the Difference of Being in Church but Not in Christ.
16 Weeks

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” - (Galatians 6:10)

Transportation

Summary-
We gather as an assembly of caring and sharing believers. We believe that worshipping together is a premium priority. Therefore, we make every effort to assist and support our disabled and/or elderly members with transportation to and from Sunday morning services.

Steps-
To access our transportation services for Sunday morning worship, you must contact our administrative office to secure your reservation. Reservations must be made on the Tuesday prior to the Sunday of service on a first come first serve basis. You must provide the administrative office with your name, address and telephone number. If there is a change in your plans and/or schedule, we ask that you notify the church office no later than 48 hours prior to service to enable others on the waiting list to secure a seat.

Special Note: If you a part of a ministry/auxiliary that would like to request our transportation services for a trip or a special event, you must do so in writing no later than 90 days in advance to ensure an administrative review and availability. The request should include the name of the auxiliary and its leaders/responsible parties, written permissions as necessary, chaperones per minor, number of adults and children, destination, mileage, trip length, costs associated, and purpose of trip. Approval or disapproval will be established in writing. In the event your group utilizes outside transportation, under no circumstances will the church’s name be used to secure or be liable for said transportation without expressed written consent of the Board of Directors of Southern Baptist Church.
**Visitation**

*Summary-*

The Bible teaches us to rejoice with them that rejoice and weep with them that weep. As Christians, we should seek to support and encourage one another through hardships and struggles. A part of these struggles are failing physical health and strength. When these realities occur, it is helpful and encouraging to know that you are not alone. You have a family in the faith who are praying for your comfort, healing, and recovery. Our ministry leaders and workers stand ready to provide you with spiritual care through the ministry of prayer and presence.

*Steps-*

In the event that one of our members or immediate family of a member becomes ill, incapacitated, or incarcerated, we ask that you notify the church immediately by calling the administrative office. You or your assignee should provide your name, location, condition, and specified day and time you are requesting ministry visitation. Two Ministers/Deacons will be assigned to come to your location to offer scripture, prayer, ministry presence, and communion. The visitation usually takes 15-20 minutes to allow you your prescribed rest and meditation. A record of the visitation is maintained to ensure we provide a ministry of accountability and excellence.

**Phase I**

**Spiritual Formation /New Member Orientation**

*Summary-*

Spiritual Formation/New Member Orientation is the beginning of your Christian Journey in Southern Baptist Church. Through this seminar you will learn the basic tenets of our Christian Faith as well as organizational structure of our ministry. As you participate in these sessions, you will be able to embrace and engage your new family of faith. Therefore, we invite you to fulfill this criteria in our six hour seminar or our six week sessions to fully access the privileges of membership.

*Steps-*

For your convenience, we have designed a six hour seminar or six week session based on the book entitled, “The Call To Follow Christ: Six Disciplines for New & Growing Believers.”

Week 1: Introducing the Call to Follow Christ
This lesson provides an understanding of what it means to become a disciple of Christ.

Week 2: Abide in Christ
This lesson is designed to help you develop a personal relationship with Christ.

Week 3: Live in the Word
This lesson will teach you how to treasure, read, memorize, study, and apply God’s word.

Week 4: Pray & Faith
This lesson is designed to teach you the power and purpose of prayer.