

Process for Applying for Affiliation with the  
**Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association, Inc.**

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date  
completed

<p><b>1</b> The prospective pastor will meet with the Associational Missions Strategist of the Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Discuss desire to affiliate and come into membership.</li> <li>b. Discuss qualifications for membership in the Association.</li> <li>c. Discuss the process and expectations.</li> <li>d. Receive an application and other appropriate documents.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Transferring from another Association?</b> At this point the POBA, Inc.'s credentials committee will contact the leadership of the applying church's current Association to discuss the request and desire for transfer. You will be contacted regarding step #2 following that communication.</p>	
<p><b>2</b> An <b>application letter</b> of request should be submitted to POBA, Inc.'s credentials committee moderator which formally initiates the process. A letter from the applying church, on the church's letterhead, indicating the desire to apply for affiliation with POBA, Inc. The letter should indicate the date the church voted to apply for affiliation with POBA, Inc. and the signature of two church officers (pastor, deacon chairman, treasurer, clerk). The application letter, a copy of the church's <b>governing documents</b>, and the <b>pastor &amp; church information form</b>, constitute the application packet.</p>	
<p><b>3</b> The credentials committee will review the church's doctrinal and missional statements and governing documents. After reviewing these documents, the credentials committee will meet with the church pastor and other church leadership to determine if the church is in agreement with the faith, doctrine, and practice of the association.</p>	
<p><b>4</b> The credentials committee shall report at the association's annual meeting, provided the time of the review process has not been less than (8) eight months, a recommendation as to whether the church should be received in the association for a (1) one year period of watch care.</p>	
<p><b>5</b> The Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association, Inc. will request SBC ID and GBMB ID numbers for the church if not already established.</p>	
<p><b>Are you a "church plant?"</b> You will need to grow your average worship attendance to fifteen (15) or more to move to step #6. We want to help!</p>	
<p><b>6</b> During the period of watch care, a church should demonstrate financial support of associational work and evidence of being in friendly cooperation. Following the (1) one year period of watch care, the credentials committee shall report to the association at the annual meeting their recommendation concerning receiving the church as a member church. Churches that do not acquire affiliation status and are not progressing within twelve months of obtaining watch care status may be asked to re-apply.</p>	