

COVENANT BIBLE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

INTRODUCTION

As Christians, we are members of God's household (Ephesians 2:19) who have been called to joyfully and humbly participate in a faithful local church within the global Body of Christ. Just as a healthy physical body requires that each member do its part, a healthy church body requires the same: Members who are fully committed and well equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for them to do (Ephesians 2:10; 4:12).

4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.
Romans 12:4-6 ESV

Covenant Bible Church holds its members in high regard. We expect them to serve as members in the church and missionaries in the culture. In his sovereign providence, God has placed us in this area, among these people, in this time period, for his holy purposes (Acts 17:26-27).

7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.
Jeremiah 29:7 ESV

Being a member of Covenant Bible Church is really about being part of a family. All members are first and foremost disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, unified by our identity found in him. This unity is expressed in the way we intentionally choose to partner in loving God, loving our fellow brothers and sisters (believers), and loving our neighbors (unbelievers). Members who enter into a covenant with their local church are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and deacons of that local church are covenanted to assist these members as a first priority. The elders and deacons have been charged by God with the task to love and lead, provide counsel and aid, pray for, teach, and guide these members.

1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.
1 Peter 5:1-3 ESV

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND BIBLICAL DOCTRINE

The Word of God

I believe the Bible is God's written revelation to man. It is composed of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament. It is verbally inspired in every word and absolutely inerrant in the original manuscripts. I affirm the infallibility, sufficiency, and authority of Scripture. I affirm its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Jude 1:3; Psalm 119:105; 2 Peter 1:19; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:17-18, 7:24; Luke 11:49-51, 24:27; John 10:34-35; Acts 20:32; Romans 15:4)

The Trinity

I believe that there is but one living and true God, an infinite, all-knowing being, perfect in all his attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons — the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — each equally deserving worship and obedience. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:21-22; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:17, 2:18; John 14:26; Acts 2:33; Mark 1:10-11; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; John 14:24; 1 Peter 1:1-2)

God the Father

I believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. I believe that he, in keeping with his justice, possesses righteous anger toward all the wicked. Yet, according with his steadfast love, he concerns himself mercifully in the affairs of men. He hears and answers our prayers, and he willfully and joyfully saves from sin and death all who come to him through faith in Jesus Christ. (1 John 3:1; Matthew 6:8-9, 32; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 1:3,4; James 1:17; John 4:23, 5:21,46, 6:44, 14:2; Acts 1:6-7)

Jesus Christ

I believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, and that as such, he possesses precisely the same nature, divine characteristics, and perfection as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. I believe that he is not only fully God but also fully man, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of a virgin. I also believe in his sinless life, his substitutionary atonement, his bodily resurrection from the dead, his ascension into heaven, his priestly intercession on behalf of his people, and his personal and visible return from heaven which the church eagerly awaits. (Luke 1:35, John 1:1, 2, 14, 3:16, 14:6, Romans 3:24-26, Isaiah 53:5, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 2:24, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Acts 1:9-11, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, 9:24)

The Holy Spirit

I believe the Holy Spirit is a person and is fully God. As the supernatural and sovereign agent in regeneration, the Holy Spirit baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers for service, and seals all believers unto the day of redemption. (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 139:7; John 15:26, 16:7-11, 13-14; Romans 8:9-16; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14, 2:22, Acts 1:8)

Regeneration

I believe that every person is a sinner by nature and by choice and is, therefore, under condemnation. I believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and empowered to live a new life. I believe that the salvation of man, who is sinful and lost, is instantaneous and accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God when the repentant sinner — enabled by the Holy Spirit — responds in faith. This salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, the merit of his shed blood and perfect obedience, and not on the basis of human merit or works. (Titus 3:3-7; Romans 6:5-11, 10:9; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 5:17; Colossians 3:9-11; John 1:12-13, 3:5-8; Ephesians 4:20-24)

The Church

I believe that all who put their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual body, the church, of which Christ is the head. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by building its members up in the faith, by instruction of the word, by fellowship, by keeping the ordinances, and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world. I believe in the local church consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith and associated for worship, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, communion and evangelism. (1 Corinthians 1:2, 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 10:16-17, 12:14-27; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:9, 5:1-4; Ephesians 3:10, 4:4-6, 5:23-32; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 10:24-25)

The Last Things

I believe in Jesus' visible and glorious return to judge the living and the dead. This will be accompanied by the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the unsaved; the saved unto the resurrection of life and the unsaved unto the resurrection of damnation. (Job 19:25-26; Daniel 12:2; Zechariah 14:4-11; John 5:29, 11:24; Acts 24:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18, 5:9; Revelation 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:1-6)

Marriage and Sexuality

I believe that the term, "marriage" has only one valid meaning and that is a covenantal union sanctioned by God which joins one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Genesis 2:18-24; Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16, 39)

I believe that God intends marriage between a biological man and a biological woman to be the only context for sexual intercourse to occur. I believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God in any context. (Proverbs 5:15-19; Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 5:27-30; Ephesians 5:3; Galatians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 18-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

I believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. (Ephesians 5:23-32, Titus 2:3-5; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Hebrews 13:7)

I believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking his mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

I believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual who is struggling with the above sins is to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the Church. (Proverbs 28:13; Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:8-9; James 5:16; Hebrews 3:12-14; Galatians 6:1)

Biblical Authority

I believe the Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind. In matters of secondary and tertiary church doctrine and practice, the Elders of Covenant Bible Church are the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. In matters of primary doctrine, such as our church's General Statement of Faith and Membership Covenant, the Members of Covenant Bible Church are the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. (Isaiah 8:20; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Jude 1:3; 1 Timothy 4:12-16; Titus 1:9; Isaiah 55:11)

OBLIGATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS TO THE MEMBERS

- We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to us in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1–13; 5:17–22; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Peter 5:1–4).
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1–5).
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27–28; Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17–18).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28–31).
- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Jesus by equipping you for service (Ephesians 4:11–13) and praying for you regularly, especially when you are sick (James 5:14).
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matthew 18:15–20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1).
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12).

OBLIGATION OF CHURCH MEMBERS TO THE OFFICERS AND FELLOW MEMBERS

- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalms 119; 2 Timothy 3:16–17).
- I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace. I will adhere to Covenant Bible Church's position on primary beliefs, and I will not be divisive over secondary beliefs, such as predestination, complementarianism, eschatology, and etc. (Ephesians 4:1–3; Hebrews 13:7, 17). And I recognize that Covenant Bible Church's doctrine is also communicated and specified through various channels, such as sermons, published materials, and other writings distributed by Covenant Bible Church.
- I covenant to follow biblical procedures for conducting church discipline towards others in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to church discipline when conducted biblically towards me by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to church discipline by the church officers if the need should ever arise (Psalms 141:5; Matthew 18:15–17; 1 Corinthians 5:1–5; 2 Corinthians 2:5–8; Galatians 6:1–5, 8; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10–11; Hebrews 12:5–11; Revelation 2:5–7, 14–25).
- I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through the regular practice of spiritual disciplines in my personal life such as study, prayer, fasting, and etc.
- My personal relationship with the Lord Jesus will be corporately evident by my commitment to gathering with the saints on the Lord's Day. (Psalms 105:1–2; Acts 2:42–47; Hebrews 10:23–25, Matthew 18:15–20).
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure in a manner that is wise, sacrificial, and cheerful (Proverbs 3:9–10; Romans 12:1–2; Galatians 5:22–26; Ephesians 4:1–16; 5:15–18). This includes regular financial giving to the church as well as eager willingness to volunteer in acts of service as the need should arise (Romans 12:1–8; 2 Corinthians 8–9; 12:7–31; 1 Peter 4:10–11).
- I will not function in leadership or as a member in another local church (Hebrews 13:17).
- I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of continual worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I could live a new life (2 Corinthians 5:17); I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, homosexuality, pornography, and fornication (Job 31:1; Proverbs 5; Romans 13:12–14; 1 Corinthians 6:9–7:16; Hebrews 13:4); I will refrain from abortion, illegal drug use, drunkenness, gluttony, greed, pride, ungodly anger, deceit, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, my pastors, and my conscience dictate (1 Corinthians 8:7; Galatians 5:19–21). Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters in our local church in order to seek help in putting my sin to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; 1 John 1:6–10).

MY COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF COVENANT BIBLE CHURCH

The mission of Covenant Bible Church is to glorify God by making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all of the commandments of Jesus Christ.

I have read the mission statement of Covenant Bible Church and am committed to participate in this mission as a diligent, faithful disciple of Jesus, that my identity would be in him, my worship would be for him, my fellowship would be through him, and my interaction with the culture would be for his glory.

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Covenant Bible Church and is an acknowledgment of my submission to the leaders of the church. I also understand that by signing this covenant I am submitting myself to all the rules and regulations found in Covenant Bible Church's Bylaws. I accept the responsibility to notify the Elders with a letter of resignation and undergo an exit interview with one of the Elders (whether or not the exit interview is required is up to the discretion of the Elders) at any time I can no longer (or will no longer) commit to this membership covenant.

Have you already been baptized?

YES **NO (I will participate in baptism with Covenant Bible Church)**

PHONE NUMBER: _____ **(RECEIVE TEXTS)** **YES** **NO**

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MEMBER PRINTED: _____

MEMBER SIGNATURE: _____

COVENANT BIBLE CHURCH PASTOR: _____