

# Christ Church



## Members' Covenant

### Preamble

Christ Church worships together under a covenant, or statement on how we agree to live as a church body. The church covenant is equal parts promise, summary of expectations, ethical statement, and biblical standard. Herein we summarize how we promise to live together in the covenant relationship. It forms the ethics, or the moral principles, of our worldview and holds out a biblical standard by which we live. Our acceptance of this multi-faceted document follows the practice of believers throughout the centuries who have pledged to God and one another to live out the gospel in covenant community.

We use our covenant in two key ways. We require all new members to sign it before joining Christ Church. We also reaffirm our commitment to the covenant at Members meetings and frequently before taking communion, when we stand as a body and recommit ourselves to it. By featuring the covenant in our life together, we strive to protect ourselves from individual and corporate sin. Of equal importance, we encourage and uplift one another to live in light of a greater covenant, one initiated by love, sealed by sacrifice, and kept for eternity by our Savior, Lord, and King, Jesus Christ.

### Covenant

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, and King, and having fully given up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other:

We will diligently work, and earnestly pray, for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort.

We will walk together in humble brotherly love, and cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, as becomes the members of a Christian Church; exercise a genuine affectionate care and watchfulness over each other, and graciously and faithfully admonish and entreat one another, always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay, as occasion may require.

We will not forsake the regular assembling of ourselves together, the personal and corporate study of God's Word, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others.

We will endeavor to bring up such as may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family, friends and acquaintances.

We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness, love, and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows, to aid one another in sickness and distress, and meet each others needs.

We will seek, by God's aid, to live circumspectly in the world, denying all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is upon us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life. We will be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; avoiding all gossip, backbiting, tattling, and excessive anger.

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully, generously, and consistently to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel to all peoples everywhere.

We will, should the Lord individually move us from this place, as soon as reasonably possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.