

An Explanation of the Church Covenant

God, in His sovereignty, placed us in this region, among these people, at this time, for a reason—to “go out and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mk. 16:15; Acts 17:24-31). As Christians, we are members of God’s household (Eph. 2:19) called to function, participate, and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member do its part well. A healthy church requires the same: members who are sacrificially committed and well-equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10; 4:12). Members of Redeemer Church will be held accountable and expected to lead as missionaries of the gospel to the culture.

A covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other (Ezek. 20:44; 36:22; Ps. 76:11; Hos. 2:19-20; 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:13). The Bible describes the relationship between God and his people, as well as between fellow believers as covenantal. Those who covenant with Redeemer Church are called to this high degree of responsibility and service. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by our identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way we collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving those who are lost—all coming to fruition in the Christ-centered ministry of this church. Christians are commanded to care for one another, participate in ministry together, and confess sin to one another. It is for this reason that Redeemer Church has written this covenantal agreement for those willing to align himself or herself with its mission and become part of its membership.

By making this covenant we commit to protect ourselves from individual and corporate sin, to align ourselves and to seek the glory of God through the furtherance of the Gospel in our community, and in doing so, to grow in love for our Savior and His Word. Of equal importance, we spur one another on to live in light of a greater covenant, one initiated by love, sealed by sacrifice, and kept for eternity by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, our commitment to Jesus Christ and to one another is described on the next page.

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Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior, and, supreme Treasure of our lives, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one in Christ.

Based on this covenant, I and the other members each pledge to:

- Love one another and walk together in Christian love;
- Strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and peace;
- Promote its spirituality and fruitfulness;
- Sustain its worship and ordinances, and forsake not the assembly of the body;
- Welcome, and test biblically, instruction from the Scriptures by the elders of the church;
- Pray for, care for, and comfort one another;
- Humble ourselves and serve one another;
- Contribute to needs, bear burdens, and share with one another;
- Rejoice and suffer with one another;
- Teach, encourage, and admonish one another;
- Submit to one another and to the discipline of this church;
- Confess our sins to one another, when appropriate, and forgive one another;
- Preserve unity and peace among ourselves;
- Live in a holy manner worthy of the name of Christ;
- Pray, live, serve, and witness in such a way as to seek to make all people disciples of Jesus;
- Maintain family and personal devotions;
- Educate our children in the Christian faith;
- Exercise our spiritual gifts as we are taught and equipped for works of service;
- Give cheerfully to support the ministry of this church and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through all nations.
- Moreover, engage that when we remove from this place, we will, if possible, unite with a likeminded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant.

I enter into this covenant with my fellow church members acknowledging that I am dependent on the grace of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit to fulfill my portion of it.