



Associate Membership Covenant

“When you make a vow to the Lord, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools. Fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.” Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

The Covenantal Commitments of Exit Church Elders

As shepherds and overseers of a local church (*1 Peter 5:1-3*), Elders are entrusted with leading, protecting, equipping and caring for the corporate church body and her individual members. The following are the covenantal commitments that Exit Elders make to the flock of God that has been entrusted to them by the Holy Spirit (*Acts 20:28*).

We Covenant Ourselves:

- To lovingly care for you and seek your growth in Christ (*1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, 11-12*).
- To devote ourselves to prayer for the church, her members, and our mission (*Acts 6:4; James 5:13-14*).
- To help you become equipped to serve Christ (*Ephesians 4:11-13*).
- To provide gospel-centered preaching, teaching, and counsel from the whole of Scripture (*Acts 20:20, 27; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 1 Timothy 5:17*).
- To consider elders, ministry and small group leaders according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (*1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4*).
- To be alert and on guard against false teaching (*Acts 20:28-31*).
- To call you to repentance for unrepentant sin and to exercise church discipline when necessary (*Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians. 5; Galatians. 6:1*).
- To seek God’s will for our community and to lead and manage the church while stewarding her resources to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (*Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 3:5, 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-5*).
- To set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of Exit Covenant Members (*1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:12-17; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 5:3*).

The Covenantal Commitments of Exit Church Members

With the help of the Holy Spirit, I joyfully make the following confessions and covenantal commitments to Exit Church:

Gospel:

- I am a Christian. I have repented of my sins, asked God to forgive me, and renounced my old way of life. I confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead. Having been born again spiritually by believing the gospel, I have been baptized as a sign and seal of my union with Christ. I will pursue the Lord through regularly studying and submitting to Scripture, prayer, fellowship, and the practice of spiritual discipline.
- I will submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues. (*Psalms 119, 2 Timothy 3:16-17*).
- I have read, understood, and am in complete agreement with Exit Church's Statement of Faith, which emerges from the pages of Scripture and are in harmony with the testimony of historic Christianity. I recognize that the explicit rejection of any core beliefs of the faith (many of which are listed below) disqualifies me from membership with Exit Church.

I Believe:

- That the Scriptures are completely true, authoritative and sufficient (*2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:2-4 & 21*)
- That there is only one God (*Deuteronomy 6:4*) – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (*Matthew 28:19*) who are equal in nature and distinct in roles
- That I am, along with all humanity, by nature (*Ephesians 2:3*) and choice (*Romans 3:23*), a sinner
- That the deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual (*Genesis 2:17, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:1-2*)
- That Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God (*John 17:5 & 24*), was born of a virgin (*Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18*), is both fully God and fully human (*Philippians 2:6-8*), and is without sin (*2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15*)
- That Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin (*Romans 3:23-25, Hebrews 10:12-14*)
- That Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead (*1 Corinthians 15:3-5 & 20, Luke 24:36-43*)
- That Jesus Christ physically ascended into heaven and will one day physically return (*Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1:6-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:16*)
- That only by trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can I be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy (*John 8:24, 14:6, Acts 4:12*)
- In a future, physical resurrection of the dead where those who trust in Jesus

Christ alone will be raised to eternal life and those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal punishment. (*Revelation 20:11-15*)

I Will:

- By God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (*1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3*).
- Practice complete abstinence unless married and, if married, complete fidelity within heterosexual and monogamous marriage. Complete abstinence and fidelity means, among other things, that regardless of my marital status, I will pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as unmarried co-habitation, adultery, premarital or homosexual sex, and pornography (*Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4*).
- Affirm that marriage is between one man and one woman and that homosexual acts and unions are sin. I will seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation at Exit Church before pursuing divorce from my spouse (*Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11*; for the role of the church in the process of divorce, see Paul's concern for the resolution of legal matters within the assembly of the church in *1 Corinthians 6*).
- Refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful or foolish behavior as the Bible dictates (*Romans 1:28-32, 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:3-18*).

Community:

- I will live together with my brothers and sisters in humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (*Ephesians 4:2-3*).
- [During the time that I am residing in/near Grant County,] I will regularly participate in corporate worship on Sundays and in intentional, ongoing discipleship, considering how I might encourage my brothers and sisters and spur them on to love and good works (*Hebrews 10:24-25*).
- I will use the gifts God has given me to serve the body, community, and city God has placed me in (*1 Corinthians 12*).
- I will pursue reconciliation when an offense occurs between myself and another member, and I will reject all opportunities to speak or to hear gossip or slander (*Ephesians 4:25-32, Matthew 18:15-20*).
- I will submit to the by-laws and to the Elders it establishes at Exit Church, recognizing they have been called, gifted, and qualified to serve our body (*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17*).

- I will be self-disciplined, follow the biblical procedures of church discipline regarding my brothers and sisters in Christ, and submit myself to church discipline if the need should ever arise. If one of our members requires church discipline, I will support the efforts and direction of the church, as led by its pastors, to call that member to repent of their sins. I agree with the church's doctrine and practice of church discipline as found in the Statement on Church Discipline (*1 Corinthians 5*). [Note: Members of Exit Church are not guaranteed confidentiality regarding issues of church discipline, and understand that in submitting themselves to the authority of the church, issues of a sensitive or personal nature may become known to others. This includes, but is not limited to, notification of appropriate authorities if a crime has been committed or if a real threat of someone being endangered exists, as well as other violations of Scripture that may not result in physical danger.]
- I will have friendly Christian relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ from other churches, but I will not function in elected leadership or as a member in another church family (*Hebrews 13:17*).

Mission, Vision & Values:

- I will join Exit Church in the tenacious pursuit of Truth, actively engaging with God's Word both corporately and privately with the expressed intent of understanding and submitting to God's Word as an act of worship. (*John 17:16-17, Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 5:25-27*)
- I will count myself a missionary of Exit Church out of the biblical conviction that everyone is called into the work of the Great Commission. As such, I will seek to advance the proclamation of the gospel through those opportunities and relationships God has afforded me in my family, my workplace, and my community, and support those whom the church sends to proclaim the gospel beyond our area. (*Matthew 28:16-20, 1 Corinthians 12:4-27, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21*)
- I will be adaptable by putting the mission of God ahead of my own interests, to support our taking risks that will result in the redemption of others, and to view my personal life as a missional expression of God to the world. I will be adaptable by holding loosely my traditions and preferences in corporate worship, in an effort to make room for new and immature believers without compromising the clear commandments of Scripture that prescribe what corporate worship ought to look like. (*Romans 14:1-23, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23*)
- I will join Exit Church in the work of equipping as many disciple-missionaries as possible and sending them out to join in the mission of the Church. (*Ephesians 4:11-16*)
- I will, if I leave the church for righteous reasons, notify an elder and thereafter

unite with some other Bible-believing church where I can carry out the spirit of this agreement and the teaching of God's Word.

My Covenant with Exit Church

Having read and understood this covenant, I freely and gladly commit myself to it and to Exit Church. With God's help, I will strive to fulfill each of the responsibilities stated here. I know that this covenant does not imply that I will never fall short, but it is the desire of my heart to believe the gospel, in community, on mission at Exit Church as stated here. I will notify an elder if at any time I can no longer affirm or commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, concerns, or comments concerning Exit Church.

Membership Checklist

Feel free to wait till your membership interview in order to check these boxes below and sign

- ☐ I am a Christian and have been baptized as a believer.
_____ I plan on getting baptized in the next 6 months.
- ☐ I have no membership at any other church or will be resigning/transferring my membership.
- ☐ I have successfully completed the Membership Class(es).
- ☐ I am or will be engaged in intentional, ongoing discipleship [--at Exit Church when I reside within Grant County and another local church when I am living elsewhere.]
- ☐ I have carefully read and am in agreement with the Exit Church membership covenant.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Elder Name: _____

Elder Signature: _____

Date: _____

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