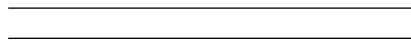




# **Membership Covenant**



## **WHY WE COVENANT**

### **Reaffirms Our Identity In The Gospel**

Through the Gospel, God has already given us a new identity of being True Worshipers, Growing Disciples, Everyday Missionaries, and a Faith Family. As Jesus' body, we want to be serious about how we live this out, so that we, and Mayfield/Graves County would experience His awesome presence and power.

A "Covenant" is the deepest form of an agreement between two parties and is a very significant theme throughout the Bible. This theme reaches its pinnacle in the New Testament with a new covenant that allows us to enter a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:26-29) This new covenant offers us new desires, a new heart, a new identity, and new power, through God's Holy Spirit, to live an entirely new life! In light of this new covenant, and as a response to it, we are making this agreement together as a Faith Family to live out this new life *TOGETHER*.

### **Clarifies What It Means To Follow Jesus**

Jesus encouraged His potential followers to "count the cost" of following Him (Luke 14:25-33). This Faith Family Covenant helps us to create a common understanding of the basics of what it means to follow Jesus and serves as a tool for reflection and growth in our pursuit of holiness.

If you profess to be a Christian, but don't live a changed life, you should take no comfort in your faith. John says, "This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him; by keeping His commands" (1 John 2:3). In short, how we live matters.

This covenant does not include every explicit command regarding obedience, but it does give a general summary of what it means to live as a Follower of Jesus.

### **Provides Accountability**

The church is called to live and act differently. In agreeing to this Faith Family Covenant, one is agreeing to be held accountable by a body of believers pursuing the same goal. In the same token, one is also agreeing to hold others accountable within this Faith Family. To hold accountable simply means to "take responsibility for," meaning that we are watching out for the interests of others as well. Any church covenant, void of this responsibility, is a worthless document. Scripture demonstrates our need for accountability over and over again (Matthew 18:15-17 / 1 Corinthians 5).

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE:**

### **THE GOSPEL**

I believe that God Himself has come to rescue and renew all of creation (including me) in and through the work of Jesus Christ.

### **GOSPEL IDENTITY**

I believe that I have been given a new identity in Christ because of the Gospel. I am now a part of God's family on mission, sent to serve the world and continually learn to walk in His ways.

## **IN LIVING OUT OUR NEW IDENTITY, WE SEEK TO:**

### **ENCOUNTER GOD**

#### ***Seek worship in every area of life***

- Seeking to live every day with God (Romans 12:1)
- Learning to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:6)
- Talking with God through prayer and expressing our dependence on Him (Ephesians 6:18)
- Giving of our first fruits to God through regular tithes and offerings (2 Corinthians 9:6-15 / 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 / Matthew 23:23)
- Serving the church family with our spiritual gifts, talents, and skills. (1 Peter 4:10 / 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 / Romans 12:6-8)
- Faithfully gather with this Faith Family to worship corporately (Hebrews 10:23-25)

### **EXPERIENCE FAMILY**

#### ***Live like family to ignite faith in others***

- Affirming and submitting to the church leadership (Hebrews 13:17), and if necessary, church discipline (Matthew 18:15-17 / 1 Corinthians 5:9-13)
- Striving to protect the unity of the church family (Ephesians 4:1-3)
- Speaking truth in love and submitting to one another in this (Ephesians 4:15)
- Refraining from gossip or slander and being reconciled when we do (James 1:26 / Matthew 12:36)
- Forgiving one another (Ephesians 4:32 / Colossians 3:13)
- Praying for one another (James 5:16 / Ephesians 6:18)
- Meeting together regularly (Hebrews 10:23-25)

### **EMPOWER OTHERS**

#### ***Be disciples who make disciples***

- Knowing and submitting to God's Word in all areas of life. (James 1:21 / 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Taking responsibility for our own discipleship and the discipleship of others (2 Timothy 2:1-2)
- Submitting ourselves to a Missional Community for:
  - Accountability - Good intentions become reality with accountability
  - Belonging - God created us as relational beings
  - Care - Love is best shown through those who know us best
- Pursuing the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines. (Mark 1)

### **ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY**

#### ***Earn the opportunity to share about Jesus***

- Living every day as a missionary sent by Jesus, wherever we may go (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Seeking to serve others as a way of life (Mark 10:42-45)
- Striving to saturate our family, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools and community with the Gospel (Acts 1:8)
- Verbally sharing the gospel with others
- Intentionally blessing others through words, gifts, or actions (Luke 14:14 & 15:2)