

Introduction

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." - Romans 12:1-2

As Christians, we are members of God's household (Ephesians 2:19), called to function, participate, and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way they collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving non-Christians. We are called to make Jesus known to ourselves through abiding (John 15:1-17; 1 John 2:24), to one another through service (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Peter 4:8-10), and to our context through mission (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15).

A healthy body or family 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 for us to do. Members who enter into covenant with their local church are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. Anthem Church holds its members in high regard; we expect them to lead as agents of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-21). God, in his sovereignty, has placed us this in this county, among these people, for a reason (Acts 17:26-27). At the same time, elders and deacons covenant as well to assist members first and foremost, to love and lead, provide counsel and aid, and pray for, teach, and guide them (Galatians 6:10).

What is a covenant?

A covenant is a promise by which we commit ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other (Ezekiel 20:44, 36:22; Psalm 76:11; Hosea 2:19-20, 3:1; 2 Timothy 2:13). The Anthem Church Membership Covenant includes a statement of faith, a statement of biblical doctrine, the obligations of Anthem Church to its members, and the obligations of members to Anthem Church. Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to participate in the life of the church, for the glory of God and the growth and joy of the member (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Statement of faith

- I am a Christian saved from the eternal wrath of God by faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through his death and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life (John 3:16-18; Romans 3:23-26).
- I believe Jesus Christ is exactly who he claimed to be (Isaiah 53:6; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:70; John 4:25-26, 6:29, 8:58, 11:25-27, 14:6-7, 15:5).
- I have repented of my sins and have been made a new creation in Christ (1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- In obedience to the Scripture, I have been baptized to personally identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, publicly demonstrating my commitment as a disciple of Jesus (Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21).

Statement of biblical doctrine

- I agree with the core beliefs of Anthem Church, which are founded upon historic creeds (e.g. Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed) and are more thoroughly expressed in the doctrinal statement (<https://anthemchurch.net/doctrine>).
- I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace; I will adhere to Anthem Church's position on primary theological issues, and I will not be divisive over secondary issues (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:7, 17).

- I agree that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters (Isaiah 55:11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:15-16; Hebrews 4:12).
- I affirm, in belief and practice, a biblical view of marriage, gender, and sexuality (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:24-25; Matthew 19:5-6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Hebrews 13:4). While the church is designed to be a refuge where all people can meet Christ, explore the faith, and ask questions, those who are members and whose faith is in Christ for salvation must pursue purity, holiness, and sound doctrine as defined by the Word of God and the Spirit of God (Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 John 1:5-10).
- I understand that the doctrine of Anthem Church is also communicated and specified through various channels such as sermons, published materials, and other content distributed by Anthem Church.

Obligation of Anthem Church to its members

- We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet 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).
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church community 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 care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service (Ephesians 4:11-13) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary, engaging in the confrontation of sin alongside covenant members after attempts to reconcile and repent have been sought independently (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).

My obligation to Anthem Church as a member

- I have read and understood the Anthem doctrinal statement (<https://anthemchurch.net/doctrine>) and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:7, 17).
- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship with the Lord will be evident through my participation in weekly worship gatherings, communion, Anthem community, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus (Psalm 105:1-2; Psalm 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3).
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure (Proverbs 3:9-10; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 4:1-16, 5:15-18). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Romans 12:1-8; 2 Corinthians 8-9, 12:7-3; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise. I covenant to confront sin and offense primarily and firstly with my brothers and sisters in Christ before involving Anthem Church leadership, and to involve leadership only when these first biblically prescribed steps are unproductive (Psalm 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 agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I may 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, pornography, and fornication (Job 31:1; Proverbs 5; Romans 13:12-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-7:16; Hebrews 13:4). I will pursue sobriety of mind and body by refraining from illegal drug use, drunkenness, 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 and seek help to put my sin to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10).

My commitment to the mission of Anthem Church

Our anthem is to "Make Jesus Known," and we make him known to ourselves, to one another, and to Marin County. We do this as a people saved and sent by Jesus, seeking to display the glory of God by our faithfulness to him, his word, and his people.

- I agree with the mission statement of Anthem Church and commit to participate in this mission as a diligent, faithful disciple of Jesus. My identity is in him, my worship is for him, my fellowship is through him, and my interaction with the culture is for his glory.

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Anthem and is an acknowledgement of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify Anthem leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Anthem Church.

Member's Signature

Pastor's Signature

Print Member Name & Date