

## **HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT (Revised June 2021)**

Throughout the Old Testament and New Testament, there is a clearly defined community of God. God established a covenant relationship first with the nation of Israel through Abraham and then a new covenant with His Church (Genesis 12:1-3; 1 Peter 2:9-10). We belong to the people of God because, by the grace of God, we have repented of our sin and believed in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior (Romans 10:8-10). We have confessed our faith and been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Now, therefore, in the presence of God, we the members of Highland Baptist Church joyfully and solemnly enter into this covenant with one another. By His grace:

We will work to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace because we are one Body in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-6). We will diligently pray for each other (James 5:16). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will always be quick to listen, slow to take offense, and ready for reconciliation (James 1:19-21; Colossians 3:12-14; Hebrews 12:14).

We will accept the Bible as the final authority on our doctrine, faith, and practice (2 Timothy 3:16). We will strive to honor Christ through all we say and do because we are not our own but belong to Him (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). We are not saved because of our works, but we are saved for good works for the glory of God (Ephesians 2:8-10). We will seek, by God's grace and power, to live self-controlled, righteous, and godly lives. We will be just and honest in our dealings and faithful in our responsibilities and commitments. We will abide by the biblical standards of sexual purity, ethical integrity, and spiritual devotion (Ephesians 5:3-7; Romans 12:1-2; Proverbs 10:9; James 1:22-27; Luke 16:13).

We will love one another by modeling the affectionate grace of Christ (John 13:34-35). We will rejoice with those who rejoice and generously help carry one another's burdens and sorrows (Romans 12:9-15; Galatians 6:2; James 2:14-17). We will confess our sins to one another and forgive one another as the Lord forgave us (James 5:16; Colossians 3:13; Matthew 6:14). We will encourage and build up one another in the counsel of the Lord, teaching, warning, and rebuking one another as occasion may require for the benefit of the individual and the glory of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 18:15-20).

We will strive to know and love God more each day through personal prayer, Bible reading, and meditating on His truth (Ephesians 1:17-22). We will use daily opportunities to teach the commands of God to those under our care with the hope that they will trust Him for salvation and walk in His ways (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

We will regularly gather together as a church to worship God unless physically unable (Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 2:42). We will be contributors as we serve, encourage, and engage together as the Body of Christ through joint worship and small group relationships (Mark 10:45; 1 Corinthians 14:26; 1 Corinthians 12). We will joyfully worship through our financial giving to the ministry of the local church and the spread of the Gospel (Deuteronomy 16:17; 1 Chronicles 29:14; Proverbs 3:9; 2 Corinthians 9:7).

We will prioritize making disciples of every nation, tribe, people, and language as commanded by Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 7:9). We will live so that the truth and grace of God is seen through our lives, and we will use our opportunities to speak the gospel to those who are near us and to the ends of the earth (Matthew 5:16; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:14-17). If, in God's providence, He calls us to move to another place, we will not needlessly delay to unite with another church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word (1 Corinthians 12:21-26).