

## II. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 A “member of the Church” must:

- (a) Be baptized in the Name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
- (b) Personally request membership,
- (c) Be 16 years of age or older,
- (d) Be recognized by the senior ordained clergyman of the Church (hereinafter, the “Rector”), and head(s) of the Vestry as a regular attendee at services,
- (e) Be on the Treasurer’s records as a regular contributor to the revenues of the Church, and

(f) Have signed the Membership Covenant (See the Appendix). This applies to those not a member of record of Prince of Peace as of December 31, ~~2021~~.

(f) Have signed the Membership Covenant (See the Appendix). This applies to those not a member of record of Prince of Peace as of December 31, 2025.

Appendix  
Membership Covenant

God has called me, chosen me, redeemed me, sanctified me, and blessed me with every spiritual blessing in the heaven lies where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father.<sup>i</sup> I believe in the name of Jesus,<sup>ii</sup> have accepted Him as my Savior, submitted my life to Him as Lord<sup>iii</sup> and become a child of God,<sup>iv</sup>

I have repented of my sins and have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.<sup>v</sup> Thereby, I have been baptized by the Spirit into the one Body of Christ<sup>vi</sup> and empowered for ministry and mission.<sup>vii</sup> I have had my life in Christ confirmed and strengthened through the laying on of a bishop's hands (confirmation).<sup>viii</sup>

I have read the Jerusalem Declaration and agree with its teaching.

In response to what the Lord has done for me, I commit myself (to the best of my ability) to the following pattern of life:

- I will seek daily to abide in Christ<sup>ix</sup> through personal disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading, fasting, solitude, etc.
- I will seek to grow always in the “grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”<sup>x</sup> through weekly worship and faithful participation in a small group.<sup>xi</sup>
- I will offer deliberately my Spirit-empowered gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ.<sup>xii</sup>
- I will give generously and cheerfully to the work of the kingdom.<sup>xiii</sup>
- I will choose to believe the best of my brothers and sisters in Christ, offering them the same charitable assumption I hope to receive from them.<sup>xiv</sup>
- I will “proclaim the excellencies of Him who called [me] out of darkness into His marvelous light,”<sup>xv</sup> knowing that the Spirit empowers me as a witness,<sup>xvi</sup> and Christ declares His people to be the light of the world.<sup>xvii</sup>

This commitment is the basis of my active involvement in the life, ministry and mission of Prince of Peace Anglican Church. When I fall short, I invite the loving admonition and caring correction of the members of the Body.<sup>xviii</sup>

*i* 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:3-10

*iv* Jn. 1:12

*vii* Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11;

Rom. 12:6-8

*x* 2 Pet. 3:18

*xiii* Acts 2:42-47;

2 Cor. 9:6-8

*xvi* Acts 1:8

*ii* Jn. 1:12

*v* Acts 2:38; Mt. 28:19,20

*viii* Acts 8:14-17

*xi* Acts 2:42-47

*xiv* Rom. 14:19; Mt. 7:12;

Eph. 4:1-3

*xvii* Mt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:14-16

*iii* Acts 2:36

*vi* 1 Cor. 12:13

*ix* Jn. 15:1-5

*xii* Eph. 4:11-16;

Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11

*xv* 1 Pet. 2:9

*xviii* Col. 1:28;

1 Thess. 5:12-1

## Proposed Member Covenant (No Change to Jerusalem Declaration)

**Rationale:** The existing member covenant was recommended by the Gulf Atlantic Diocese at the time of adoption. New members commented that the language was unnecessarily ornate, and in some cases difficult to understand. This caused hesitation to sign as it lacked clarity and simple language. The following proposed change maintains the spirit of the existing covenant, while simplifying the language for a modern audience.

Prince of Peace Anglican Church  
Membership Covenant

By God's grace, I have been called, chosen, redeemed, and made new in Christ. I belong to Him as His beloved child, forgiven and set apart, blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

I have turned from my sins and been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. By the Spirit I have been joined to the one Body of Christ and empowered for ministry and mission.

I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, and I joyfully affirm the Jerusalem Declaration as a faithful summary of the Christian faith.

In response to God's great love for me, I commit, with His help, to live as a faithful member of Prince of Peace Anglican Church:

- **Abide in Christ daily** – through prayer, Scripture, and practices that deepen my walk with Him.
- **Grow in grace and fellowship** – by gathering for weekly worship and sharing life in community with others.
- **Use my gifts for Christ's body** – offering my Spirit-given abilities to build up the Church.
- **Give generously and joyfully** – supporting the ministry and mission of God's kingdom.
- **Love my brothers and sisters** – choosing to believe the best, extend grace, and walk together in unity.
- **Bear witness to Jesus** – proclaiming His goodness and light in word and deed, at home, at work, and in the world.

This covenant expresses my desire to take an active part in the life, mission, and ministry of Prince of Peace Anglican Church. When I fall short, I welcome the encouragement, correction, and care of my brothers and sisters, trusting that together we will grow into the likeness of Christ.

---

 Printed Name

---

 Signature

---

 Date

## IV. ELECTION OF THE LEADERSHIP BODY OF THE CHURCH - THE VESTRY

4.1 The elected members of the leadership body of the Church (known as the “Vestry”) shall consist of at least 6, with no more than 12 members (excluding the Rector, who serves as a permanent member of the Vestry and as its Chair), divided as evenly as possible into 3 classes, who shall each to serve for a term of 3 years on a rotating basis once the initial composition of the Vestry has been constituted. Vestry membership shall not be restricted with regard to gender. At each Annual Meeting, all vacancies in the Vestry shall be filled by the election in the manner hereinafter provided. No member of the Vestry who has served one full, regular term may begin to serve another regular term or the unexpired portion of someone else’s term until one (1) year following the expiration of such full term. Should the number of members of the parish eligible to serve on its Vestry fall at any time below eight (8), the Parish shall either (1) notify the Bishop that it is to become a Congregation under the Gulf Atlantic Diocese Canon XVIII or (2) be dissolved.

**Rationale:** The amendment regarding gender of the Vestry is to be in compliance with The Gulf Atlantic Diocese Section 2 of Canon XIX.

The amendment regarding the eligibility of members serving on the Vestry is to be in compliance with the Gulf Atlantic Diocese Canon XVIII.

4.2 The **outgoing** members of the Vestry and the Rector shall serve as the Nominating Group for the ensuing election of new members of the Vestry at the forthcoming Annual Meeting. The Rector shall appoint the Chairperson of the Nominating Group.

**Rationale:** The reality is that the outgoing members of the Vestry ask the Rector and other members of the Vestry for suggestions. This has led to a custom of the entire Vestry discussing nominations for Vestry members during regular meetings beginning as early as October.

4.3 The Nominating Group shall meet (a) at least thirty (30) days preceding the Annual Meeting at a time agreeable to the members thereof to receive nominations, and (b) to consider members for nomination to the Vestry to be presented at the forthcoming Annual Meeting. At least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting, such Nominating Group shall present its recommendations in writing to the Members of the Church. The Nominating Group shall present at least one nominee for each vacancy to be filled. The members of the Church may nominate others pursuant to Section 4.4 below. When the recommendations are presented to the Members of the Church, the Members shall be instructed to notify the Wardens or Secretary of the Vestry if they possess knowledge of why a potential candidate is unfit to serve as a member of the Vestry no later than fifteen (15) days from the date of the presentation of recommendations to the Church.

In the event of a Member notifying the Wardens or Secretary of the Vestry of something that might render a candidate unfit to serve, the Rector and the Wardens shall immediately initiate an investigation into the allegations. If they determine there are sufficient grounds to disqualify a candidate as a Vestry member, they shall withdraw the candidate from the ballot. At the Annual Meeting there shall be a vacancy declared, to be filled by the Vestry as if someone had resigned pursuant to section 4.13.

4.4 Members of the Church may nominate potential candidates for election to the Vestry in writing addressed to the Wardens or Secretary or Clerk of the Vestry and submitted by the regular November Vestry Meeting at least one week prior to said Annual Meeting; provided however, that all such nominations must be seconded, in writing, by another Member of the Church. These nominees shall be considered along with those supplied by the Nominating Group.

**Rationale:** Including the Nominating Group in the consideration process for the potential candidates enables personal, prayerful, and thoughtful consideration of potential candidates.

4.14 In no event shall a member of the staff, or an immediate family member (a parent, spouse, or child) of the staff or clergy of a parish, serve as a member of a vestry. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a parish may make application to the Standing Committee for a waiver of this restriction for a particular vestry nominee. Any persons otherwise prohibited from serving on a vestry under this provision who are serving on a vestry as of November 1, 2025, may serve out the remainder of their term.

**Rationale:** This addition is verbatim from the Gulf Atlantic Diocese Section 2 of Canon XIX. Placing it here puts us in compliance with diocesan canons.