



Renewal of Baptismal Commitments

to be completed up entrance into membership at Christ the King

Preamble

By virtue of Baptism, all Christians are members of Christ's Body. This membership confers a vocation upon each person, and this vocation carries with it many obligations. The Offices of Instruction remind the Baptized that they are "bound so to do" all that was promised for them or by them at the "waters of regeneration" (Titus 3:5). They must 1) reject the World, the Flesh, and the Devil, 2) believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith, and 3) keep and walk in God's holy will and commandments. Later, the Offices teach that every Christian's "bounden duty is to follow Christ, to worship God every Sunday in his Church; and to work and pray and give for the spread of his kingdom." The implications of membership are total and undefinable. Yet, so that the family of God might know what their Father expects of them, the Church as Mother articulates certain commitments which draw out the practical meaning of commands found in Scripture.

We also find in Scripture the practice of Covenant Renewal. (Deut 29, Josh 23-24, Neh 8-10) Covenant Renewals remind us of God's commitment to us and our bounded duties to Him. They afford us an opportunity to commit ourselves to the obligations of our baptismal vocation. The membership commitments below should be understood in this way. The commitments are drawn entirely from Scripture as they have been received and interpreted by the Church. A renewal of covenant commitments creates nothing new, only strengthens and clarifies that which existed before.

Membership at Christ the King is established by a simple letter of transfer. A transfer of membership actualizes the general obligations of a baptized Christian within the context of a local parish and its own particular ways of living out the Baptized Life. The following commitments articulate the general obligations of baptized Christians within the context of Christ the King Anglican Church. Members will have the opportunity to renew their baptismal vows by affirming and committing to the elements of this document on an annual basis, likely during the season of Advent.

Doctrinal Commitments

I affirm that the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, containing all things necessary for salvation, and to be the final authority and unchangeable standard for Christian faith and life.

I affirm as proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture the historic faith of the undivided church as declared in the three Catholic Creeds: the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian.

I affirm Baptism and Communion to be Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself in the Gospel, and thus to be ministered with unfailing use of His words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.

Ethical and Parochial Commitments

I commit to maintaining charity and good-will toward my fellow parishioners, humbly submitting to pastoral correction, and working to resolve all conflicts in a biblical manner. (Matt 5:23-24, 18:15-17, Eph 4:1-3, 1 Thess 5:12, Hebrews 13:17)

I commit to living in accordance with the clear moral and ethical dictates of Scripture, including its teachings on marriage and sexuality, as summarized in ACNA Canon II.8.2-3¹. (Lev 19:2, Psa 96:9, 1 Thess 4:7, 1 John 3:6)

I commit to prioritizing weekly attendance at Sunday worship as the foundational aspects of our life together. (Lev 23:3, Heb 10:25, *Didache*² 14:1)

I commit to engaging in continual catechesis. If I am unable to attend the adult catechesis class on Sunday, I will watch the weekly video when I am able. (Deut 6:6-7, Neh 8:1-3, Matt 28:19-20, Acts 2:42, Heb 5:12-6:3)

I commit to tithing my income to this church, or at least to take steps toward tithing my income to this church. (Gen. 14:19-20, Lev 27:30-34, Neh 10:35-37, Mal 3:8-9, Matt 23:23 *Didache* 13)

These things, and all other duties and commitments contained within the vows of my Baptism, I commit myself to within the context, ministry, and authority of this mission parish of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

_____	_____	_____
print name	signature	date

☐ Mark here if you are making this commitment as a head of household for all your 0-12 year old children.

☐ Mark here if you will also commit to participation in *cell group meetings*.³

¹ ACNA Canon II.8 Section 2 - In view of the teaching of Holy Scripture, the Lambeth Conference of 1998 and the Jerusalem Declaration, this Church upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believes that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage, and cannot legitimize or bless same sex unions or ordain persons who engage in homosexual behavior. Sexual intercourse should take place only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. Section 3 - God, and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, all members and clergy are called to promote and respect the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death.

² The *Didache* is the earliest non-canonical Christian writing. While it does not hold the same authority as Scripture, it is included in this document to show that these commitments are found in both the Bible and the Early Church.

³ Participation in Cell Groups is not a clear Scriptural command or a universal practice of the Church. Thus, it is not determinative for being a "member in good standing". But cell groups are an important part of parish life at Christ the King, so we ask each member to commit to participating in their local cell group.