

Franconia Baptist Church Covenant (2019)

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other.

We will aim to glorify and enjoy the God of our salvation, from whom and through whom and to whom are all things. To Him be glory forever.¹

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.²

We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian Church, exercising an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully admonishing and entreating one another as occasion may require.³

We will show perfect courtesy towards all, speaking the truth in love to one another, and avoiding quarrels, gossip, and slander.⁴

We will be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God in Christ has forgiven us.⁵

¹ **1Cor. 10:31:** "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." **Rom. 11:36:** "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

² **Eph. 4:3:** "Be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

³ **John 13:35:** "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." **Eph. 5:1:** "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." **Col. 3:12-16:** "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." **1Th. 5:11:** "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

⁴ **Titus 3:2:** "Speak evil of no one, avoid quarreling, be gentle, and show perfect courtesy toward all people." **Eph. 4:15:** "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." **Eph. 4:29:** "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

⁵ **Eph. 4:32:** "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." **1Pet. 3:8:** "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind." **Col. 3:12:** "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others.⁶

We will endeavor to bring up such as may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends.⁷

We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.⁸

We will seek, by divine aid, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we wait for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.⁹

⁶ **Heb. 10:23-25:** "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." **1Tim. 2:1-6:** "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time." **James 5:16:** "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

⁷ **Prov. 22:6:** "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." **Eph. 6:4:** "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." **1Pet. 2:12:** "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." **1Pet. 3:1:** "Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives." **1Pet. 3:15:** "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." **Rom. 10:1, 14-15, 17:** "Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.... 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news! 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

⁸ **Gal. 6:2:** "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." **Rom. 12:15:** "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

⁹ **Titus 2:11:** "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." **Rom. 6:1:** "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.¹⁰

We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.¹¹

We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.¹²

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.¹³

into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

¹⁰ **Matt. 18:15-20:** "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." **Acts 2:38:** And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **1Cor. 5:9-13:** "I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? 13 God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you." **1Cor. 11:26:** "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." **2Tim. 4:2:** "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."

¹¹ **Matt. 28:18-20:** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **2Cor. 5:20:** "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." **Luke 12:33:** "Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys." **2Cor. 9:7:** "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." **Gal. 6:10:** "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." **James 1:27:** "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." **1John 3:17:** "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

¹² **Heb. 10:23:** "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." **2Tim. 2:22:** "So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

¹³ **2Cor. 13:14:** "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."