

Hinson Baptist Church Member's Covenant

As those who have been brought to repent and believe in Jesus Christ by the grace of God, being united to Him by His Spirit we now solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another.

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

We will, by God's grace, forsake the paths of sin, and walk in the ways of holiness all the days of our lives, striving together for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort.

We will regularly gather together, engaging in gospel community, rejoicing with each other's happiness, and bearing one another's burdens and sorrows.

We will pray for each other and provide help to those in our midst who are in need.

We will pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through the ordinary means of grace and will encourage the same in one another.

We will bring up those under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and, by a pure and loving example, seek the salvation of our family and friends.

We will live carefully and honorably before the world, remembering that as we have been voluntarily buried through baptism and raised again in Christ, so there is on us a special obligation to lead a new and holy life.

We will lovingly guard one another from the deceitfulness of sin, giving and receiving admonition in humility and affection.

We will bear patiently with one another, diligently pursuing biblical reconciliation.

We will work together to promote a faithful gospel ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry of this church for the spread of the gospel through all nations.

Should we leave this church, we will seek another church where we can carry out the principles of God's Word as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Bethlehem Baptist Church Member's Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior, and, supreme Treasure of our lives, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and peace; to promote its spirituality and fruitfulness; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and discipline; to welcome, and test biblically, instruction from the Scriptures by the elders of the church which accords with the Elder Affirmation of Faith, seeking to grow toward biblical unity in the truth; to 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.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment, to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to seek God's help in abstaining from all drugs, food, drink, and practices which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, if possible, unite with a likeminded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant.

We acknowledge that implicit within this covenant is the consent to be governed by the Relational Commitments* that have been officially adopted by the church and that address peacemaking and reconciliation, accountability and church discipline, marriage and divorce, counseling and confidentiality, and the protection of our children.

Capitol Hill Baptist Church Member's Covenant

CHBC has worshiped together under a covenant, or statement on how we agree to live as a church, since our earliest days in 1878. The church covenant is equal parts promise, summary of expectations, ethical statement, and biblical standard. We summarize how we promise to live together in the covenant. It forms the ethics, or the moral principles, of our worldview and holds out a biblical standard by which we live. Our acceptance of this multifaceted document follows the practice of believers throughout the centuries who have pledged to God and one another to live out the gospel in community.

We use our covenant in two key ways today. We require all new members to sign it before joining the church. We also reaffirm our commitment to the covenant at all members meetings and before taking communion, when we stand as a body and recommit ourselves to it. By featuring the covenant in our life together, we strive to protect ourselves from individual and corporate sin. Of equal importance, we spur one another on to live in light of a greater covenant, one initiated by love, sealed by sacrifice, and kept for eternity by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

Downtown Cornerstone Church Member's Covenant

BIBLICAL OBLIGATIONS OF DCC PASTORS TO DCC MEMBERS

As shepherds and overseers of a local church, the elders are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping and caring for the church body. The following is an abbreviated list of the requirements for elders as spelled out within the Scriptures, and to which your elders covenant with the members.

The elders covenant...

- to uphold the criteria assigned to them in Scripture, and appoint elders and deacons (including staff) that will meet the qualifications of these offices (1 Timothy 3:1–13; 5:17–22; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Peter 5:1–4).
- to care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth and love, by holding up Jesus Christ and the gospel in all things (John 3:16; Hebrews 1:3; Ephesians 1:9–10; Colossians 1:15–23).
- 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).
- 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).
- to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27–28; Galatians 6:6, 1 Timothy 5:17–18).
- to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28–31).
- to lovingly and graciously exercise church discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole (Matt. 18:15–20; 1 Corinthians 5; Gal. 6:1).
- 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).

BIBLICAL OBLIGATIONS OF DCC MEMBERS TO DCC BODY

The obligations of this membership covenant are not intended as an addition to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, this covenant functions primarily as an accessible yet nonexhaustive explanation of what the Scriptures teach about the obedience that faith produces. As followers of Jesus we are called, by God's grace, to increasingly reflect the character of Christ through the pursuit of certain attitudes and actions, while rejecting others. The Scriptures refer to this reality as "living by the Spirit" (Rom 8).

I covenant...

- to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16–17).
- to maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through faith and repentance, and to cultivate that through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and other means of grace (Psalm 105:1–2; 119:97).
- to follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church:
 - by being baptized after my conversion
 - by regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion (Matt 28:19, Luke 22:19).
- to regularly participate in the life of our body through weekly worship services, and knowing and being known in consistent relationships, within this church, for the purpose of discipleship. (Acts 2:42–47; Hebrews 10:23–25; 2 Peter 1:3).
- to 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 serving others, inside and outside our church, and financial giving that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Romans 12:1–8; 2 Corinthians 8–9; 12:7–31; 1 Peter 4:10–11).

- by God's grace, to live as an ambassador for Christ within my spheres of influence, participate in the life of the city, serve my neighbors, and practice hospitality with nonChristians. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)
- by God's grace, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin so that I can live a new life (2 Corinthians 5:17). Believers should strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit. Below are a few examples of actions addressed in the Scriptures:
 - I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual, and monogamous, marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, 5 adultery and fornication. Regardless of my marital status, I will pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices. (Job 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4).
 - I will seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through steps of marriage reconciliation within DCC before pursuing divorce from my spouse (Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11; for the role of the church in the process of divorce, see Paul's concern for the resolution of legal matters within the assembly of the church in 1Corinthians 6).
 - I will refrain from gossip and believe the best about others until proven otherwise. Should a disagreement arise, or trust is broken, I will go directly to the offending party to seek reconciliation before talking to others about them (Rom 12:9-21, Matt 18:15).
 - I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible and my conscience dictate (Romans 1:28-32, 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:3-18).
- to refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Romans 14:14-23).
- to take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Corinthians 8:1-13).
- to submit to the discipline of God through the Holy Spirit by:
 - following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another – the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.
 - receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11).
- to do the following when I sin:
 - confess my sin to God and to fellow believers.
 - repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10).
- to submit to the elders, and other appointed leaders, of the church and diligently strive for unity and peace within the church (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5)
- to do the following should I leave the church for righteous reasons:
 - to resign my membership by formally notifying a pastor.
 - to seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.