



## Joining the Trinity Family: A Mutual Commitment

Membership is an often misunderstood term. Membership in the world around us is all about transactional relationships that can be terminated any time one or the other party believes they are no longer getting their needs met. As one commercial used to say, “membership has its privileges.”

This is NOT what being part of a church is all about! Rather, being a part of a family is about walking together in faith. It is about mutual commitments to one another as we become more like Christ and live out His mission in the world.

So at Trinity we talk about being a part of the Trinity family. Being a member of the family at Trinity means four specific things:

1. **You are a baptized believer in Jesus.**

The foundation of our faith is the love that God has for us in Christ Jesus. We are given this faith in baptism and that faith is strengthened through the study of God’s Word and the gift of the Lord’s Supper. Being a part of the Trinity family means that you not only acknowledge Jesus as your Lord and Savior but that you continue to grow in your relationship with Him, built on a foundation of Word and Sacrament.

2. **You embrace the Mission and Vision of Trinity**

Our mission, as a church, is to help people look, live, and love more like Jesus. We believe that as we live out this mission, God will transform lives, transform our communities, and transform our world so that more and more people would experience the abundant life He offers to us through Jesus Christ.

3. **You have been taught about the “family values” here at Trinity and are willing to work towards living up to that ideal in your life.**

In Matthew 28, Jesus commanded us to “*go and make disciples of all nations.*” Our mission, to help people look, live, and love more like Jesus, flows directly from that great commission. We believe that as we live out this mission, God will transform lives, transform our communities, and transform our world so that more and more people would experience the abundant life He offers to us through Jesus Christ. **You have been taught about the “family values” here at Trinity and are willing to work towards living up to that ideal in your life.**

Being a part of a family means doing your best to live like a member of the family. No one is perfect and we all need to grow towards these ideals. But knowing the values and striving to work towards them is crucial to being an active member of the family. (For more on the “family values” see below.)

4. **You have signed a covenant with your pastor that commits to growth, and are willing to be held accountable to your commitment.**

The family commits to help you as you grow, and you commit to take growth steps and let someone support, encourage, and regularly check in with you on your progress.

If you are a baptized believer in Jesus, embrace the Mission and Vision of our congregation, have learned the family values, and have signed a mutual commitment with your pastor – then welcome to the family!

## God's Promise to You

God promises to reveal his heart and plan for you through his Word, to give you His love and grace, to forgive your sins, to give you faith, to strengthen your faith, to empower you to live out your faith by giving you His Holy Spirit, and to equip you in every good work as you grow as a follower of Jesus. Living out our faith often comes with its own set of challenges. The good news is that God doesn't leave you to do it alone. He wants you to experience the full and abundant life that He gives to you in Christ (John 10:10).

## Our Commitment to You

And as your church family, we have some commitments to make to you too. We promise to be a church where God's Word is taught and His Sacraments are faithfully administered, that will help support and equip you to live out your faith, to lead where God has placed you, and to wisely invest the resources that you generously give in a way that advances the mission God has given us.

## Trinity's Family Values

And finally, in response to these promises from God and commitments from our family, we ask everyone who is a part of Trinity to strive to live out these values. No family is perfect, and we recognize that we are all growing, but being in the family means we are all working towards these ends.

### **Worship – We cultivate lives of public and private.**

In Psalm 95:6-7 we read: *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.*

Worship is a vital way that we stay connected to God. We make weekly public worship at one of our sites a high priority. If you can be there, you are there. We also spend time daily in God's Word and in prayer.

### **Connect – We are in small group communities.**

In John 13:34-35, Jesus said, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* Those small groups are healthy, meaning they study the Word, encourage one another in faith and service, receive His council in prayer, meet regularly, and are coached in and connected to Trinity's mission.

### **Serve – We serve regularly in a ministry at Trinity and in our local communities.**

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus said. *"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."* John 13:14-15 We seek to know our gifts and use them for the sake of others. We serve the Trinity family and our local communities either through a Trinity ministry or on our own.

### **Generosity – We tithe or give beyond a tithe.**

In Malachi 3:10 we read: *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."* Tithing is giving 10% off the top. But being generous is about more than a minimum percentage. It means our hearts are open to being cheerfully generous whenever God gives us an opportunity to do so.

### **Leading – We are willing to be led and to use our gifts to lead others.**

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul wrote, *"Imitate me as imitate Christ"*. Everyone needs the support, encouragement, and accountability that comes from being led. But it also means becoming a leader for the sake of serving others.

**Sharing – We intentionally cultivate and have relationships with at least 2 people who are far from God.**

In 2 Corinthians 5: 19-20 we read: *...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. We all have people in our lives who don't yet follow Jesus. Committing to sharing means we are actively praying for them, inviting them to church, and sharing God's Word with them in regular spiritual conversations.*

**Accountability - We are willing to held accountable for our own growth and leadership by others within the church family**

In I Thessalonians 5:12-14, Paul writes: *We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.* Accountability means that we are willing to receive the support and encouragement from others to follow through on our commitments. It means being transparent with those in our small group communities and our leadership teams about what is going on in our lives and where we could use encouragement and support.

**Taking the Next Step**

If you are ready to be a part of the Trinity family, then we invite you to share with us your next step in continuing to look, live, and love more like Jesus, and to sign this covenant, along with your pastor, as a sign of your willingness to be held accountable to growing in your walk with Christ.

MY NEXT STEP IS: \_\_\_\_\_

MY SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PASTOR SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_