



Membership Covenant

INTRODUCTION

As Christians, we are members of God's household (Eph. 2:19) called to function, participate, and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member do its part well. A healthy church requires the same: members who are sacrificially committed and well-equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10; 4:12). Bethany Baptist Church holds its members in high regard; we expect them to glorify God by making disciples. God, in his sovereignty, placed us in this community, among these people, in this day, for a reason (Acts 17:26-27).

Being a member of Bethany Baptist Church is really about being part of a family. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way they work together in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving non-Christians. Members who enter into a covenant with their local church are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and deacons covenant to assist members first and foremost, to love and lead, provide counsel and aid, and pray for, teach, and guide them. (1 Pet. 4:8-10)

WHAT IS A COVENANT?

A covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other (Ezek. 20:44; 36:22; Ps. 76:11; Hos. 2:19-20; 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:13). The Bethany Baptist Church Covenant includes a statement of personal faith, a statement of biblical doctrine, the obligations of Bethany Baptist Church to its members, and the obligations of members to Bethany Baptist Church. Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to his glory and his bride, the church (Eph. 5:25).

Bethany Baptist Church

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STATEMENT OF PERSONAL FAITH

- I am a Christian saved from the eternal wrath of God by faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through his death and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life (John 3:16-18; Rom. 3:23-26).
- I believe Jesus Christ is exactly who he claimed to be (Isa. 53:6; Matt. 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:70; John 4:25-26; 6:29; 8:58; 11:25-27; 14:6-7; 15:5).
- I have repented of my sins and have been made a new creation in Christ (1 John 1:9; 2 Cor. 5:17).
- In obedience to Scripture, I have been baptized to personally identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and to publicly demonstrate my commitment as a disciple of Jesus (Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:21).

STATEMENT OF BIBLICAL DOCTRINE

- I agree with the core beliefs of Bethany Baptist Church, which are founded upon historic creeds (e.g. Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed) and confessions (The London Baptist Confession of 1689, and the New Hampshire Baptist Confession of 1833).
- I will adhere to Bethany Baptist Church's position on primary theological issues, and I will not be divisive over secondary issues, remaining submissive to leadership and diligent to preserve the unity and peace of the church (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17).
- I agree that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters (Isa. 55:11; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:15-16; Heb. 4:12).

OBLIGATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH TO ITS MEMBERS

- We covenant that our elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures, pray and follow the Holy Spirit's leading (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5).
- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service (Eph. 4:11-13) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12).

MY OBLIGATION TO BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH AS A MEMBER

- I have read and understood the Bethany *Articles of Faith* and will not be divisive to its teaching. I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve the unity and peace of the church regarding areas of doctrine over which I may understand the Bible differently (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17).
- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 19:7-11; Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- By the grace of God, I will strive to maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, and spiritual fellowship. My relationship will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, the Lord's Supper, a spiritual growth group, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus (Ps. 105:1-2; 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3).
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in the church that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Rom. 12:1-8; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:7-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for peacemaking in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous correction when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5, 8; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25).
- By the grace of God I agree to: walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin so that I could live a new life (2 Cor. 5:17); I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, homosexuality, pornography, and fornication (Job. 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4); I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, my pastors, and my conscience dictate (1 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:19-21). Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10).

MY COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

The mission of Bethany Baptist Church is to turn spiritually lost people into mature disciples of Christ.

I have read the mission statement of Bethany Baptist Church and commit to participate in this mission as a diligent, faithful disciple of Jesus; that my identity would be in him, my worship would be for him, my fellowship would be through him, and my interaction with spiritually lost people would be for his glory and their salvation.

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Bethany Baptist Church and is an acknowledgment of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify Bethany Baptist leadership if at any time I relocate or can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Bethany Baptist Church.

Signature

Date