

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

The membership covenant is a biblical way of defining the expectations and responsibilities that God has for His people. It clarifies what we believe and the sort of lifestyle to which we will hold each other accountable. It helps guard us against partiality (Jam. 2:1) by ensuring that every member is held to the same standards of discipleship, obedience, and commitment. To covenant together means that we formally commit ourselves to the truth of the gospel, to the spiritual vitality and mission of this community, and to the leadership of church elders, who will give account to Jesus for their work (Heb. 13:17). Becoming a member means you affirm our church's doctrinal statement, and that you intend to fulfill each of the following commitments to the best of your ability.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS

All Christians are called into personal discipleship, community, and the mission of God. Membership commitments are built upon that foundation, and work out the practical expressions of Christian life in a particular church community. Along these lines, we emphasize six expressions of faithful membership at Providence: spiritual disciplines, faithful presence, mutual love and accountability, serving on Sundays, missional life, and generous giving.

You are committing to be a disciple of Jesus:

- » I am a follower of Jesus who trusts in Christ alone to save me from sin and make me right with God (justification – Rom. 3:21-24). I have been baptized to signify my union with Christ and my identification with his people (Rom. 6:3-4). I am willing to obey Jesus and am seeking his ongoing transformation of my heart (sanctification – Heb. 12:14; Phil. 2:12-13).
- » I will seek to live in obedience to the teachings of Scripture and pursue growth in Christian maturity through the practice of **spiritual disciplines** (e.g. Bible reading and prayer) and through **faithful presence** on Sundays and in Gospel Community (Acts 2:42, Col. 3:16, Heb. 10:24-25).

You are committing to the community of Providence Church:

- » I commit to relationships of **mutual love and accountability**, which means I will submit to the care and correction of church leaders (Heb. 13:17), actively work for the good of others by “speaking truth in love” (Eph. 4:15), and strive to preserve doctrinal and relational unity in the church (Eph. 4:1-3).
- » Beyond the basic commitment of **serving on Sundays**, I will use my time, gifts, and resources to promote the spiritual vitality and well being of this community. I understand this will involve taking initiative with ideas and people, meeting practical needs, bearing with others, resolving conflict, and praying for others (Eph. 4:1-16, Rom. 12:3-21)

You are committing to the mission of God through Providence Church:

- » I believe that God has made me an ambassador for Christ wherever I go (John 17: 15-19, 1 Pet. 2:9, Matt. 28:18-20). I will pursue **missional life** by living out my faith in word and deed, and by inviting others into conversation and community so they can experience the gospel first-hand.
- » I will use my time, gifts, and resources to support the mission of the church. I commit to **give financially** to Providence in a consistent and generous way. I will also work to restore the areas of brokenness in our city, practice hospitality, and pray for those whom God puts in my life (Matt. 5:13-16, John 17:20-21, 1 Pet. 2:12).

PASTORAL COMMITMENTS

The Bible teaches that elders are stewards who will have to “give an account” for those whom God has entrusted to their care (Heb. 13:17; Acts 20:28). By becoming a member, you are placing yourself under the pastoral care and oversight of the elders whom the Holy Spirit has raised up for Providence Church. Serving under the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, our elders make the following commitments to the members of our church:

- » We commit ourselves to your welfare, to seek your growth in Christ, and to providing an example for you to follow (Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-3).
- » We commit to provide teaching, preaching, and counsel from the Scriptures (1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-4:2) and to guard sound doctrine (Tit. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:24-25).
- » We commit to help you in times of need (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35; Jam. 2:14-17).
- » We commit that your leaders will meet the criteria assigned in Scripture (1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Tit. 1:5-9).
- » We commit to help you become equipped to serve Christ (Eph. 4:11-13).
- » We commit to exercise church discipline when we believe it is necessary. Discipline is always aimed at repentance and restoration. However, when a member is unrepentant and unwilling to reconcile, discipline may involve such measures as withholding communion, disclosing misconduct to other members or churches, and revoking membership. Discipline is a sensitive process, and we are committed to taking any such measure in love for the purpose of encouraging repentance and ultimately the restoration of fellowship (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).
- » We commit 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 Pet. 5:1-5).

MEMBERSHIP VOWS

Both here and at the commissioning ceremony, new members affirm the following vows:

- » I acknowledge myself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope apart from His sovereign mercy and grace.
- » I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and I receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel.
- » I resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that I will endeavor to live as a disciple of Jesus.
- » I promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of my ability.
- » I submit myself to the leadership and discipline of the Church and promise to promote harmony and peace within the body of Christ.

In signing below, I agree to become a member of Providence Church with an understanding of the affirmations, commitments, and vows set forth in this Membership Covenant and a desire to engage in the ministry and mission of Providence.

PRINTED NAME:

SIGNATURE:

ELDER SIGNATURE: