

# SIX MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS

In the New Testament, the **nature** of the church is consistently likened to the members of a family and the members of a body. It's a beautiful illustration of our need for one another. We all have different gifts, and we all find purpose and unity under Jesus, who is "the head of the body, the church" (Col. 1:18). The consistent **calling** of the church is to maturity and mission. Thus, both in its nature and calling, the church requires the formal commitment of people ("members") to one another.

As you enter the membership process, it's worth considering up front what this formal commitment looks like at Providence, and whether these are commitments you feel prepared (by God's grace) to live into:

## **Spiritual Disciplines**

You are committed to walking with God. The primary way we cultivate a relationship with God is through practices like Bible reading, prayer, rest, and the like. These spiritual disciplines "set the sails" in our life so that we can catch the wind of God's Spirit at work to sanctify and empower us.

## **Faithful Presence**

You are committed to be faithfully present on Sundays and in your Gospel Community. As members of one body, we build each other up through our points of contact (Eph. 4:16). We cannot grow in isolation. The most fruitful people are not the most talented, but the most faithful.

## **Mutual Love & Accountability**

You are committed to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Eph. 5:21). That means we willingly submit to the care and correction of qualified church leaders (Heb. 13:17), and that we actively work for the good of others by "speaking truth in love" (Eph. 4:15) and "maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

## **Serving on Sundays**

You are committed to serve in a specific role related to our Sunday gatherings (Providence Kids, music team, setup, teardown, etc.). Of course, there are many other ways to use your time, gifts, and resources in our church, but this commitment is foundational to how we function as a family.

## **Generous Giving**

You are committed to give financially to Providence in a consistent and generous way. Giving is both an act of worship and a display of the grace we receive through Christ (2 Cor. 8:9, 9:7-8). While there are many worthy causes, we believe our primary commitment in giving should be to our local church.

## **Missional Life**

You are committed to building a missional church through the practice of two simple rhythms: **living out** and **inviting in**. We live out our faith in word and deed, and we invite others into our lives and community so they can experience the gospel first-hand. This is central to our identity as ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20).