

Cityview Membership Covenant

The Cityview Community Church Membership Covenant is birthed out of our love for the church body and its individual members, those who belong to God by faith in Christ, whom we hope will experience the fullness of joy which is found in the presence of the Lord. The primary purpose of this covenant is to serve as a teaching document with three functions:

- To clarify the biblical obligations and expectations for both the elders of Cityview Community Church and the individual members of the Cityview church body
- To establish teaching and doctrinal parameters for the Cityview church body
- To serve as a tool for reflection and growth toward holiness.

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 (Psalm 76:11; Ezekiel 20:44; 36:22; Hosea 2:19-20; 3:1; 2 Timothy 2:13). Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God and as a commitment to his glory and his bride, the church (Ephesians 5:25).

Declaration of Faith

The Word of God

We believe the sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments are the divinely inspired, infallible Word of God, without error in the original manuscripts, and God's complete, written revelation to humankind. The Bible is sufficient and trustworthy for life, faith, conduct, and practice, and is the supreme and final authority in all matters to which it speaks. We further believe there is but one true interpretation of Scripture, although there may be several applications. The true meaning lies in the text and is that which the divinely-guided author willed to convey. It is recoverable through careful application of a literal (grammatical, historical, contextual) method of interpretation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and in the community of Christ. The Holy Spirit illumines the text, enabling the reader to embrace the significance of what God has communicated, and to see the glory of Christ in the Word of God.

The Trinity

We believe in one God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, eternally divine existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; we believe that these are equal in every distinct perfection and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

God the Father

We believe in God the Father: an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. We believe God's knowledge is exhaustive; that He fully knows the past, present, and future independent of human decisions and actions. The Father does everything in accordance with His perfect will, though His sovereignty neither eliminates nor minimizes our personal responsibility.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God's eternal Son. God the Son has precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe further that He is not only true

God, but true man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His priestly intercession on behalf of His people, and His personal, visible return from heaven.

Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality and His work in regeneration, sanctification, and preservation. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to implement Christ's work of redeeming the lost, and to empower the believer for godly living and service. We believe the Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to believers as He wills for the common good. No gift signifies His baptism or filling, nor does any gift provide authoritative revelation beyond what has already been revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Life in the Spirit includes trials and does not guarantee physical health, material wealth, nor confirming outward signs.

Mankind

We believe God originally created persons, male and female, in the image of God and free from sin. We believe all people are sinners by nature and choice and are spiritually dead. We also believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe God established marriage to be a lifelong covenant relationship between one man and one woman. Marriage so defined is the only permissible context for intimate sexual expression and is the foundation for human family. We further believe that human life is precious and should be protected from beginning, at fertilization, until death.

Salvation

We believe in salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, was purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross, is eternally secured by the Holy Spirit, and is received by faith, apart from any human merit, works, or ritual. We further believe salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper social concern.

The Church

We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the head. We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe that this body expresses itself in local assemblies whose members have been immersed upon a credible confession of faith and have associated themselves for worship, for instruction, for evangelism, and for service. We believe the ordinances of the local church are believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. We also believe in the interdependence of local churches and the mutual submission of believers to each other in love.

Separation of Church and State

We believe that each local church is self-governing in function and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life and that each one should be free to worship God according to the dictates of conscience.

Christian Conduct

We believe that the supreme task of believers is to glorify God in their life and that their conduct should be blameless before the world. We further believe that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions and that they should seek to realize for themselves the full stature of maturity in Christ.

The Last Things

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost, the eternal existence of all people either in heaven or hell, in divine judgment, rewards, and punishments.

Mission Statement

To equip people to magnify Christ and serve others.

Vision Statement

In order to magnify Christ, we are sent to serve: (1) the *seeking*, as we proclaim compellingly, (2) the *church*, as we connect authentically, (3) the *family*, as we lead faithfully, (4) the *city*, as we minister compassionately, and (5) the *culture*, as we engage intentionally.

Elder Commitments

The elders commit...

- to **lead** the church by
 - *seeking* God's will for our church community prayerfully and stewarding her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following of the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4);
 - *setting* an example and joining members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated below (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3).
- to **teach** the Word of God faithfully by
 - *proclaiming* the whole counsel of God as found in Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:1);
 - *protecting* the church against false teachers and teachings (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1).
- to **shepherd** the flock entrusted to us by
 - *caring* for the church and seeking her growth in grace, truth and love, and praying for the members of the church regularly, especially when sick or struggling (Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 1:28; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; James 5:16);
 - *disciplining* erring sheep in love when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20); that discipline may require contacting civil authorities regarding behavior that is not only sinful but criminal, when appropriate (Romans 13:1-5). (This includes holding other elders to account who are caught in sin, such as the abuse of authority exemplified by Diotrephes [3 John 9].)
- to **equip** the members of the church for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Member Commitments

I commit...

- to **pursue** Christ and holiness by
 - *cultivating* a vital, intimate relationship with the triune God through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines, knowing that if we're not abiding in Christ, we have nothing to offer the church to which we belong (John 15:1-5; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22);
 - *striving* to walk in holiness, by God's grace, as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin so that I can live a new life; and when I sin, I commit to confessing my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:5-14; 13:12-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Hebrews 13:4; Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:1-10; 1 John 1:6-10; James 5:16).
- to **participate** fully in the life of the church by
 - *attending* weekly services that I might be an encouragement to others (Hebrews 10:24-25), and partaking of the ordinances: being baptized after my conversion and regularly remembering and

celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion (Romans 6:1-4; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34);

- *connecting* deeply with other believers in truly transformative community that we might love, honor, encourage, serve, admonish, discipline, and confess to one another, while striving diligently for unity and peace within the church (Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 12:9-12; Colossians 3:15-17; Matthew 18:15; Titus 3:14).
- to **provide** of my time, talents, and treasures by
 - *giving* generously, cheerfully, and sacrificially of the financial resources God has given me (2 Corinthians 8:7-9; 9:6-15; Acts 4:32-37; Philippians 4:14-19; 1 Timothy 6:2b-10);
 - *servicing* in the church community that the body of Christ might be built up, knowing that God has gifted me especially for the common good (Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 25:14-30).
- to **proclaim** the gospel of Christ Jesus boldly and winsomely by
 - *endeavoring* to bring up any who are under my care in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 78:4-7);
 - *seeking* the salvation of our family and friends, and ultimately of all nations, by a pure and loving example, a compelling presentation, and a recognition that the ministry of reconciliation has been given to us, that the lost might hear and believe because we proclaim (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 10:9-14; 2 Corinthians 5:12-21; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15).

In addition, for the ongoing health of the community, I commit

- to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21), and to submit to the elders of the church (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5). (However, submission to church leadership does *not* imply overlooking the sin of elders [including the abuse of power], which must be brought to the attention of the church in godly ways for the good of the sinner and the health of the church [1 Timothy 5:19-20].)
- to do the following should I leave the church (for what I hope would only be righteous reasons):
 - to notify a pastor or elder
 - to seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.

I have read and affirm the Declaration of Faith.

I have read the Mission and Vision of Cityview Community Church and commit to live out these statements 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 the culture would be for his glory.

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____