



# FAITH COVENANT

## *Expectations of Church Membership*

WE COMMIT AS A BODY TO **HONOR GOD** AS THE **PEOPLE** HE HAS JOINED TOGETHER FOR THE **PURPOSE** HE HAS CHARGED TO US IN THIS **PLACE** OF MINISTRY TO A COMMUNITY AND TO THE WORLD. WE EXIST TO LOVE, LEARN, AND LIVE LIKE JESUS IN ALL PLACES AND IN ALL WAYS . . . TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

- Membership means we are all necessary parts of the whole.
- Membership means we are different but we still work together.
- Membership means everything we say and do is based on a biblical foundation of love.
- “Membership is the church’s corporate endorsement of a person’s salvation.” *(Mark Dever, 9 Marks of a Healthy Church)*

### **1. I WILL BE A FUNCTIONING CHURCH MEMBER** (Rom. 12, 1 Cor. 12)

- By attending Bible Study and worship services faithfully *(Hebrews 10:25)*
- By living a godly life; avoiding lifestyles, behaviors and practices contrary to God's divine plan *(Phil. 1:27a)*
- By giving of my tithes and offerings regularly *(1 Corinthians 16:2)*
- By discovering and developing my gifts and talents *(1 Peter 4:10)*
- By being available to serve where gifted *(1 Cor. 12, Rom. 12)*
- By developing a servant's heart *(Philippians 2:1-16)*
- By inviting the un-churched to attend and warmly welcoming those who visit *(Luke 14:23; Romans 15:7)*
- By sharing the Gospel of Salvation with the lost *(Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:8, Mark 16:15)*

*\*At Faith Church, we do not keep a record for “inactive” members. We believe the concept of an inactive church is an oxymoron. Biblically, no such church member really exists. When you join Faith Church, you are not being included merely for the function you could perform but you are being adopted into a family. And the relationships to which you are committing yourself will bring glory to God.*

### **2. I WILL BE A UNIFYING CHURCH MEMBER** (John 13:35, Eph. 4:1-2, Colossians 3:12-14)

- By acting in love and respect toward other members *(Matt. 5:21-26, 38-48; 25:31-46; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:5; 15:14, 17; Eph. 4:1-6)*
- By discussing any issue with the person involved and not gossiping *(Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 14:19; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:29-32)*
- By forgiving other members’ faults and offenses. *(Matt. 6:14-15)*
- By supporting FAITH Church leaders without neglecting to give proper counsel as guided by Scripture and the Holy Spirit *(1 Kings 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17)*
- By praying for its growth *(Ephesians 4:16)*
- By leading my family to be healthy church members *(Deut. 6:5-7)*
- By not letting my church be about my preferences and desires *(Philippians 2:3-4, 14-15)*

“Do not merely attend a church (though you should attend), but join a church. Link arms with other Christians. Find a church you can join, and do it so that non-Christians will hear and see the Gospel, so that weak Christians will be cared for, so that strong Christians will channel their energies in a good way, so that church leaders will be encouraged and helped, so that God will be glorified.” *Mark Dever, 9 Marks of a Healthy Church*

<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. *Hebrews 10:22-25 (NASB)*

“We are not to love fellow church members just because they are lovable. We are to love the unlovable as well. We are not to pray for and encourage our pastors just when they are doing things we like. We are to pray for and encourage them when they do things we don’t like. We are not to serve the church only when others are joining in. We are to serve the church even if we are alone in doing so.” *Thom Rainer | I Am a Church Member*