

# Membership Covenant

## What is a church?

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus told his disciples, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." This promise reminds us of God's commitment to gather for Himself a people for the display of His glory. The Bible calls this group of people, consisting of all believers at all times, the Church. As a Christian, you are united through the Holy Spirit to all other Christians because of your common faith in Jesus and are, therefore, called to be a part of God's redemptive work around the world through the Church.

Your commitment to God and His Church is to be expressed through involvement in a local body of believers. Scripture depicts a local church as a community of believers in a particular place committed to gather together on a regular basis to worship God and fulfill His mission to the world. Within this community, our unity in Christ compels our commitment to one another. Membership in a local church is, therefore, participation in a family.

Just as a family is dependent on individual members functioning in specific roles, so a local body of believers requires sacrificial and responsible service from each member. The health of a local church, therefore, can be measured by the commitment of its members. At Center Point, our goal is to be a healthy church that displays the glory of God to one another and to the world. To achieve this goal, it is important to clearly articulate both what we believe and how we are committed to behave as a family of faith. The beginning point of our beliefs is a biblical understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

## What is a Christian?

We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

We believe that, due to universal death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again (John 3:5-8); that salvation is only by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ; and that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ through faith are declared righteous by God and become children of God (Heb.10:19-25).

We believe the Scriptures teach that regeneration, or the new birth, is that act of God by which the Holy Spirit imparts a new nature and a new spiritual life, not before possessed, and the

person becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus (Gal. 2:20). The mind is given a holy disposition and a new desire to serve God, the dominion of sin is broken, and the heart is transformed from a love of sin and self to a love of holiness and God.

## **What is a Church Covenant?**

A covenant is a promise between two parties to fulfill commitments to one another. The Scriptures teach that God has established a covenant with His people in order to express the promise of eternal salvation. This covenant brings believers into a relationship with one another that can be expressed through involvement in a local church.

A church covenant is a practical step toward identifying ourselves as a faith community that seeks to honor God. It explains what we believe and who we are. It defines the responsibilities of the church's leaders and the expectations of its members. Ultimately, we covenant with one another in the church because Jesus Christ has made His covenant with each of us in salvation.

The covenant of Center Point Church is built upon the foundational beliefs explained in our Articles of Faith. Having agreed upon these beliefs, the following covenant seeks to explain what church leaders and church members are committed to do within this community of faith.

## **What are the Commitments of Church Leaders?**

The Elders of Center Point Church, in addition to fulfilling the responsibilities of church membership, covenant to lovingly lead this church. With the support and assistance of ministers, deacons, and other leaders, they will serve the Lord by:

Shepherding and praying for the church according to Scripture

1 Peter 5:2-3

Leading the church in the wise stewardship of truth, time, treasure, and talent Hebrews 13:17

Equipping the members of the church for the work of ministry

Ephesians 4:11-12

Providing teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture

Acts 20:27-28

Protecting the church from false teachers and teachings

Titus 1:9

Preserving the unity of the Spirit and maintaining a culture of peace

Ephesians 4:3

Exercising church discipline and restoration in love

Matthew 18:15-20

Setting an example as disciples of Christ

1 Timothy 4:12

## **What are the Commitments of Church Members?**

Having experienced the grace of God in salvation, we are called to bring glory to God by joyfully following Jesus as each of us grows toward spiritual maturity in Christ. Christians, being motivated by and empowered by His grace, are to pursue attitudes and actions that reflect the character of Christ and reject attitudes and actions that do not. This covenant expresses a consensus concerning the foundational expectations of members of Center Point Church who have committed to live in obedience to God and are seeking to do so as a member of this community of faith.

As members of Center Point Church, we establish this covenant with one another in order to glorify God and serve him faithfully as a congregation. In all we do, we will aim to glorify and enjoy the God of our salvation, by living in obedience to the Scriptures in all areas of faith and life. 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 11:36

We will endeavor to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and teaching them all that Jesus has commanded us as God gives us missional opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally. Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8

We will eagerly maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace by walking together in love and by putting away all bitterness, anger, and hurtful speech. With humility, gentleness, patience, and love, we will be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God has forgiven us. Ephesians 4:1-3, 29-31; Colossians 3:12-17; Galatians 6:1-2

We will support marriage as a reflection of Christ's relationship with His church and will seek to maintain our marriage covenants in obedience to the Lord. We will strive to train our children in the instruction of the Lord, living in a way that demonstrates the gospel of Christ before our family, friends, and neighbors. Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 5:21-33; Matthew 19:6

We will consistently gather to worship God corporately. We will pursue maturity in Christ through practicing personal spiritual disciplines, participating in discipleship groups, and by using our gifts to serve others inside and outside of the church.

Hebrews 5:11-14, 10:25; 1 Timothy 4:7-9

We will contribute cheerfully and generously to the church and to the advancement of God's kingdom in the world through the regular giving of tithes and offerings. Matthew 28:19; Luke 12:13-21; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

We will strive to walk in wisdom and refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish. We will take seriously our responsibility to honor God with our lives understanding that not everything that is permissible for a Christian is beneficial for the kingdom of God. Romans 14:14-23; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Proverbs 20:1; Titus 2:11-14

We will, if we move from this place, unite as soon as possible with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. Hebrews 10:24-25

We will strive to live self-controlled and godly lives in this present age, submitting to the leadership of this church and, when necessary, to the loving exercise of church discipline and restoration, as we wait for the blessed appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 5:22-24

In and because of Jesus we pray, Amen.