



GOSPEL HOPE CHURCH

MEMBER COVENANT

A constant question posed regarding church membership is if the Bible even requires it. If you look throughout the bible, you will not find one passage that specifically promotes church membership in the New Testament; however, there is strong evidence that church membership was practiced as early as the first century church.

- An annual record of individuals was kept (Acts 2:37-47)
- Records were kept of widows (1 Timothy 5:3-16)
- Elections were conducted (Acts 6:1-6)
- Church Discipline was carried out (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1)
- There was an awareness of who was committed to the local church (Acts 2:42-47; Romans 16:1-16)
- Elders/Pastors will be held accountable for members (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-5)
- Church Membership was implied by the body (1 Corinthians 12:12-20)

Out of a commitment to the Bible, to form a compelling gospel revealing community, and to clarify the responsibilities of church leaders and members, Gospel Hope Church not only practice church membership but makes a covenant with and to one another to pursue Jesus Christ, to live according to the Scriptures, to embody the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to pursue the Great Commission together. The remainder of this document outlines the details of our covenant.

PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES

The Gospel Hope Member Covenant is written out of love for the church body and its individual members, whom we hope will experience the joy found in the presence of Jesus Christ. The primary purpose of this covenant is to serve as a teaching document with a few functions:

- To join the Holy Spirit in forming an authentic church community that reflects the relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit.
- To clarify the biblical obligations and expectations for both the church leaders and the individual members of Gospel Hope.
- To serve as a tool for reflection and growth toward holiness and biblical community.

4 When you make a vow to God, don't delay fulfilling it, because he does not delight in fools. Fulfill what you vow. 5 Better that you do not vow than that you vow and not fulfill it.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

GOSPEL HOPE LEADERSHIP

As Shepherds and overseers of a local church, elders/pastors are entrusted with knowing, feeding, leading, protecting, equipping, and caring for the corporate body and her individual family members.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, Church leadership covenants...

to appoint elders/pastors and deacons (including staff members who serve in these offices) according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures

(1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

to prayerfully seek God's will for our church community and steward her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and follow the Holy Spirit

(Acts 20: 28; 1 Pet 5:1-4)

to care for the church and seek her growth in Christ

(Matt 28:16-20; Eph 4:15-16; Col 1: 28; Thess 5:12; Heb 13:17; James 5:14; 1 Pet 5: 1- 4);

to pray for you regularly, particularly when you are sick

(James 5:14)

to provide teaching, preaching, and counsel from the whole of God's Word

(Acts 20: 27-28; 1 Tim 4:16 ; 2 Tim 4:1 -5; Titus 2 :1)

to equip the members of the church for the work of the ministry

(E ph 4:11-16)

to be on guard against false teachers and teachings

(Matt 7:1 5; Acts 20: 28-31; 1 Tim 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1)

to lovingly exercise discipline when necessary out of loving obedience to God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole

(Matt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 5; Gal 6:1; James 5:19-20)

to set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated below

(1Cor 11:1; Phil 3:17; 1 Tim 4:12 ; Titus 2 :7-8; 1 Pet 5:3)

GOSPEL HOPE FAMILY MEMBERS

Christians are to be committed members of a local church who submit to Jesus and the authority of the Bible, follow church leadership, and partner with other believers to make disciples.

We joyfully covenant with each other, that God the Holy Spirit enabling us:

We been saved from our sins by the grace of Jesus Christ. We have been baptized to give testimony of our identification with the body of Christ and out of obedience to the Scriptures. While not perfect, we pursue a life of loving obedience to Jesus and God's Word

We will pursue treasuring Jesus and spending time with Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and the regular practice of personal spiritual disciplines

(Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Eph 5:1-21; 1 Thess 5:12-22)

We will walk together in love as brothers and sisters, a family of sinners saved by grace.

(John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:10; 1 Pet. 3:8)

We will labor for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, bearing patiently with each other and freely forgiving as we have been forgiven in Christ.

(Eph. 4:1-3; Matt. 18:21-35; Eph. 4:32)

We will pursue transparency with each other, resisting the temptation to hide our struggles and sins, that we might experience the grace of God in the care of his saints.

(Rom. 15:7; 1 John 1:6-10; James 5:16)

We will commit to the ministry of attendance, regularly gathering with the whole church for worship, prayer, fellowship, member meetings, and community life, because no one can faithfully follow Jesus alone.

(Acts 2:42-47; Heb 10:23-25; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Prov. 18:1; Titus 3:14)

We will commit to the ministry of prayer, and to pursue each other's good as we encourage frequently, admonish gently, and receive correction humbly.

(James 5:16; Rom. 12:10; Heb. 3:13; Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:15, 29-31)

We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor, with tenderness and sympathy, to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.

(Rom. 12:15; Gal. 6:2; 1 Pet. 3:8)

We will be active in evangelism, taking the initiative to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, leaving the results to God.

(Mark 1:17; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; 1 Pet. 2:9; 3:15)

We will to steward the resources God has given us, including our time, talents, spiritual gifts, and personal finances. This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary.

(Matt 25:14-30; Rom 12:1-2; 2 Cor 8-9; 1 Pet 4:10-11)

We will joyfully aid in fulfilling Gospel Hope missional purpose to treasure Jesus, make disciples, and plant churches. We recognize that this will be accomplished by seeking to embody Gospel Hope's four values.

If we leave this congregation, we will join another gospel-preaching church, as soon as possible, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

(Heb. 10:24-25; 13:17)

And through life, whatever opposition may come, we will live for the glory of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(Matt. 5:11-12; James 1:2; 1 Pet. 2:9)

Name

Name

Signature

Signature

Date

Date