

Church Covenant

Only recently has RHBC proclaimed a Church covenant. However, proclaiming the Word of God and living by the statutes therein has been this Church's practice for many years. The church covenant is equal parts promise, summary of expectations, ethical statement, and biblical standard. We summarize how we promise to live together in the covenant. It forms the ethics, or the moral principles, of our worldview and holds out a biblical standard by which we live. Our acceptance of this multifaceted document follows the practice of believers throughout the centuries who have pledged to God and one another to live out the gospel in community. We use our covenant in two key ways today. We require all new members to sign it before joining the church. We also reaffirm our commitment to the covenant at all members meetings and before taking communion, when we stand as a body and recommit ourselves to it. By featuring the covenant in our life together, we strive to protect ourselves from individual and corporate sin. Of equal importance, we spur one another on to live considering a greater covenant, one initiated by love, sealed by sacrifice, and kept for eternity by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, and on the profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we do now prayerfully and seriously make this covenant with God and with one another.

We determine, therefore by the grace of God and in the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and strength; to uphold its doctrine, ordinances and discipline according to the

teachings of the New Testament; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations; to identify and cultivate our spiritual gifts and dedicate our energies to the service of Christ's Kingdom; to seek to lead others into its fellowship to the end that His Kingdom may be promoted.

By God's help we further agree to cultivate personal and family devotions; to endeavor to lead our children to a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, to instruct them in the Scriptures and the spirit of this covenant, and to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances.

To give no man cause to speak evil against us, we will seek to be just in our dealings, to be faithful to our commitments, to set the proper example in our attitude and conduct, and to avoid conversation harmful to others and inappropriate anger. Realizing that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, we will avoid things that are harmful to the body, exercising self-discipline and cultivating purity in our lives. We pledge not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together; to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

Moreover, when we move from this place we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the principles of God's Word and the spirit of this covenant.