

## MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

### 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 [Genesis 15; Ezek. 20:44; 36:22; Ps. 76:11; Hos. 2:19–20; 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:13]. The Redeemer Church covenant includes a statement of faith, a statement of biblical doctrine, the obligations of Redeemer Church Elders to its members, and the obligations of members to their local church. Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to his glory and his bride, the church [Eph. 5:25].

### Statement of Faith

- I AM a Christian saved from the eternal wrath of God by faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through his death and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life [John 3:16–18; Rom. 3:23–26].
- **I BELIEVE** Jesus Christ is exactly who he claimed to be [Isa. 53:6; Matt. 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:70; John 4:25–26; 6:29; 8:58; 11:25–27; 14:6–7; 15:5].
- I HAVE repented of my sins and been made a new creation in Christ [Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:17].
- In obedience to Scripture, **I HAVE** been baptized to personally identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and to publicly demonstrate my commitment as a disciple of Jesus [Col. 2:12; Romans 6:3-4].

#### Statement of Biblical Doctrine

- I AGREE with the core beliefs of Redeemer Church that are expressed in our doctrinal statement.
- I UNDERSTAND the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace; I will adhere to Redeemer Church's position on primary theological issues, and I will not be divisive over secondary issues [Eph. 4:1–3; Heb. 13:7, 17].
- I AGREE that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters [2 Tim. 3:15–16; Heb. 4:12].
- I UNDERSTAND that Redeemer Church's doctrine is communicated and specified through various channels, such as sermons and other writings distributed by Redeemer Church and that our elders will counsel and teach consistent with these truths.

# Obligations of Redeemer Church Elders to its Members

• **WE COVENANT** that your elders will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures [1 Tim. 3:1–7; 5:17–22; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Peter 5:1–4].

- **WE COVENANT** to seek God's will for our church community and to steward her resources to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit [Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1–5].
- **WE COVENANT** to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service [Eph. 4:11–13] and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick [James 5:14].
- WE COVENANT to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture [Acts 20:27–28; 1 Tim. 5:17–18].
- WE COVENANT to be on guard against false teachers [Acts 20:28–31].
- **WE COVENANT** to lovingly exercise church discipline when necessary with the aim of restoring an erring brother or sister [Matt. 18:15–20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1].
- **WE COVENANT** to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members [1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12].

## My obligation to Redeemer Church as a member

- I COVENANT to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues [Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16–17].
- I **HAVE READ** the Redeemer Church doctrinal statement and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace [Eph. 4:1–3; Heb. 13:7, 17].
- I COVENANT to maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, monthly communion, Redeemer Life Groups, service to those around me, and a life that glorifies Jesus [Ps. 105:1–2; Ps. 119:97; Acts 2:42–47; Heb. 10:23–25; 2 Peter 1:3].
- I COVENANT to steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure [Prov. 3:9–10; Rom. 12:1–2; Gal. 5:22–26; Eph. 4:1–16; 5:15–18]. This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary [Rom. 12:1–8; 2 Cor. 8–9; 12:7–31; 1 Peter 4:10–11].
- I COVENANT to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise [Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15–17; 1 Cor. 5:1–5; 2 Cor. 2:5–8; Gal. 6:1–5, 8; 1 Tim. 5:20; Titus 1:9; 3:10–11; Heb. 12:5–11].
- I COVENANT, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I could live a new life (2 Cor. 5:17). I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, homosexuality, pornography, and fornication (Job 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12–14; 1 Cor. 6:9–7:16; Heb. 13:4); I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible and my conscience dictate and my pastors counsel (1 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:19–21). Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; 1 John 1:6–10). I will seek to work for the upbuilding of the church by refraining from activity that could stir up division such as gossip [2 Cor 12:19-20]
- I COVENANT to do the following if I should leave the church for righteous reasons:
  - o To exhaust all means available to reconcile relationships, clarify doctrine, or reform practices so as to stay in fellowship with the community of believers at Redeemer Church.
  - o To notify one of our pastors regarding the reason behind your decision for ending fellowship.
  - To seek another gospel centered local church in which to carry out my responsibilities as a believer in Jesus Christ and member of the universal church.

## My commitment to the Mission & Vision of Redeemer Church

**THE MISSION** of Redeemer Church is to share the gospel, shape disciples, and send out missionaries into our neighborhoods and around the world.

**THE VISION** of Redeemer Church is to multiplying families of missionary servants through Life Groups and the launching of new local churches.

**I HAVE** read the mission & vision statements of Redeemer Church and commit to participate in this mission 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 Redeemer Church and is an acknowledgment of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify one of our pastors if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Redeemer Church.

SIGNATURE:			
SPOUSE'S SIGNATURE [IF MARRIED]:			
NAME & BIRTH DATE:		_/	_/
SPOUSES NAME & BIRTH DATE:		_/	_/
ADDRESS:			
EMAIL:			
PHONE: HOME:	CELL & CARRIER:	RVICE	CARRIER]
CHILDREN'S NAMES & BIRTH DATES			
	/		
	/		
	/		
	/		
	,		