

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

When anyone enters into a relationship with God by grace from, and faith in, the person and work of Jesus Christ, they are entering into two covenants. The first is to journey with God for the rest of their lives and love Him fully. The second is to journey with His other children in the community of the local church. Your membership in a church is an official recognition of this, and the purposes of the Providence Church Membership Covenant are:

1. To join the Spirit in forming an authentic church community that reflects the relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit.
2. To clarify the ongoing blessings and responsibilities of each member.
3. To encourage consistency, accountability, and loving unity within the church family.
4. To accomplish God's call for the Providence Church family.

This agreement does not imply that you will never fall short of the goals, but that the desire of your heart is to fulfill to the best of your ability each of the responsibilities stated. We trust that your commitment will be a personal blessing to your own journey in Christ, as well a blessing to those around you.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, the church leadership covenants the following:

1. We commit ourselves to lovingly care for you and seek your growth in Christ (1 Pet. 5:2-4; 1 Thes. 5:12).
2. We covenant to provide teaching, preaching, and counsel from the Scriptures (Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
3. We commit that this teaching will span the whole counsel of God's Word (Acts 20:27-28).
4. We commit to help you in times of need (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; James 5:14-17).
5. We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22, Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
6. We covenant to pray for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).
7. We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
8. We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).
9. We covenant to help you become equipped to serve Christ (Eph. 4:11-13).
10. We covenant to seek God's will for our church community, to the best of our ability, as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-5).
11. 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).

With the guiding help of the Holy Spirit, I, the undersigned, covenant the following:

1. I am a Christian who has been saved from my sins by the grace of Jesus Christ. I have been baptized by immersion to give testimony of my identification with the body of Christ and obedience to the Scriptures.
2. I have read and understand the Providence Church doctrinal statement and agree to 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 (Heb. 13:7,17; Eph. 4:1-3).
3. I will endeavor to maintain a close relationship with the Lord through regular personal Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of the other spiritual disciplines. My journey in Christ will be evident through my regular participation in the corporate worship services and involvement in a community group (Ps. 119:97, 105; Acts 2:24-47; Heb. 10:23-25).
4. I will strive to properly manage the resources God has given me, including my time, body, gifts and talents, attitude, finances, and possessions (Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-26; Prov. 3:9-10). This includes regular giving to Providence Church that is sacrificial and cheerful (2 Cor. 8-9).
5. I commit myself to the Providence Church family and agree to aid in fulfilling its missional purpose to glorify God by making disciples.
6. I commit to using the spiritual gift(s) God has given me for the building up of the church, both at Providence Church and universally (1 Pet. 4:10-11; Rom. 12:1-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-31). I understand that serving regularly is an expectation and membership requirement.
7. I covenant to practice the humility and sacrificial attitude of Christ by considering the needs of others (Phil. 1:1-11), not gossiping (Prov. 16:28; Matt. 18:15-17), and seeking spiritual friendships (Prov. 17:17).
8. I covenant to have friendly Christian relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ from other churches, but I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family (Heb. 13:17).
9. I covenant to follow the biblical procedures of church discipline and submit myself to discipline if the need should ever arise (Matt. 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1-5).
10. I covenant to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). My responsibility will be to notify the Providence Church elders if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Providence Church.

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized and being in agreement with Providence Church's theology, ecclesiology, and culture, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Providence Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the above.