

# MEMBER COVENANT & CONFESSION

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## **Member Covenant**

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public confession of our faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully endeavor to keep the spirit of this covenant as one body in Christ.

We purpose, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and love; to promote its fruitfulness and spirituality; to attend its services regularly; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and doctrines; to submit to its discipline and the authority of its officers; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to give faithfully of time and talent in its activities; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, to the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also purpose to maintain family and private devotion to the Lord; to train our children according to the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our family and neighbors; to walk carefully in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to abstain from all activities, habits, and lifestyles that dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer, or hinder the gospel witness; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ, our Savior, and to give him preeminence in all things.

We further purpose to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return; 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 feelings and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.

We moreover purpose that when we leave this church we will as soon as possible unite with another church of like faith where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

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## **Member Confession**

### **The Bible**

We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired Word of God, true and inerrant in the original writings, sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do, and the final authority for all matters of faith, practice, and life. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:19-21)

### **God**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that these three are equal in every divine perfection; and that this God is the Creator and Ruler of all things and is the center of our worship. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 3:16-17; Matt. 28:19-20; Gen. 1:1-2; John 1:1-3; 1 Chron. 16:23-25)

### **God the Father**

We believe in God the Father Almighty, who sovereignly rules over all that he created and continues to care for and sustain in providence all that exists. God is Father of those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. (Matt. 6:9; Gen. 1:1; Ps. 115:3; Dan. 4:35; Eph. 1:11; John 1:12)

### **God the Son, Jesus Christ**

We believe in Jesus Christ as Lord, the eternal Son of God, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and is fully God and fully man—the only mediator between God and man. (1 Cor. 8:6; John 20:28; John 3:16; Matt. 1:23-25; Heb. 4:15; John 1:14; Col. 2:9; Phil. 2:5-7; 1 Tim. 2:5)

### **Atonement**

We believe that Jesus Christ, according to the will of God the Father, offered himself as a substitutionary atoning sacrifice for our sin and that all who repent from their sin and believe in him have eternal life. By his death on the cross and resurrection Jesus defeated evil, sin, and death. (Isa. 53:10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Acts 2:38; John 3:16; Heb. 2:14)

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## **Resurrection**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as the first fruits of our resurrection, and in his ascension into heaven to the right hand of the Father. (1 Cor. 15:3-8, 20; Acts 1:9-11; Rom. 8:34)

## **God the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from and glorifies the Father and the Son, convicts the world of sin, regenerates hearts, indwells all believers, gives gifts to men and women, guides believers in obedience to the truth, and seals believers unto the day of redemption. (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-8, 16:14-15; Rom. 8:9, 13-14; 1 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 1:13, 4:30; Titus 3:5)

## **Humanity**

We believe that humans were created by God in his own image; that Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and sinned, thereby incurring physical, spiritual, and eternal death, which is separation from God; and that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation.

We believe that God created humans as male and female; that God ordained marriage to be a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman; that sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage; and that marriage and singleness are gifts from God. (Gen.1:27-28; Gen. 3:1-6; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 5:12-21; Rom. 6:23; Matt. 19:4-6; 1 Cor. 7:2, 7-8)

## **Salvation**

We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone and that true faith in the gospel will be made evident by a life of repentance and godliness. (Rom. 10:9; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 2:12)

## **The Church**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members.

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We believe in the local church, consisting of a body of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, under elders, and associated for worship, instruction, service, and fellowship.

We believe that the primary mission of the church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples of all nations. (Col. 1:18; Eph. 2:19-22; Gal. 3:26-28; 1 Pet. 5:1-5; Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:23-25; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

### **The Ordinances**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe that water baptism of a believer into the name of the triune God signifies one's identification with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. (Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:3-5)

We believe that Christians partake of the bread and the cup in the Lord's Supper in order to commemorate his death until he comes. (1 Cor. 11:23-27)

### **Last Things**

We believe that those who die in the Lord are with the Lord until his return. We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of his kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the endless suffering of the wicked, and the eternal joy of the righteous. (2 Cor. 5:8; Luke 23:43; Matt. 16:27; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:15; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:20, 54-55; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 21:1-9)