



## Covenant Partnership

Covenant Partnership at New Covenant Bible Church is participation in a family, a microcosm of the universal household of God. All members are united to Christ and thus to each other. Unity within the church is expressed in love for God and a love for others, both those within the family and those who are not. Because of the identification of Christ with His church, Christians are expected to display His gospel in a manner which is worthy of Him (Eph. 4:1).

A covenant is defined as “a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action.” Within the Scriptures, we find a number of examples of covenants, some between God and man (Gen. 6, 9, 15; Ezek. 20; Hos. 2; Jer. 31; Matt. 26), while others are solely between men (1 Sam. 18; 2 Sam. 5). In some covenants, one party binds his or herself to fulfill the obligations of both sides of the covenant.. In others, the parties are reciprocally bound to adhere to the obligations. While God’s covenant with the Church universal is an example of the former, the local church covenant represents the latter. If at any time one of the parties of this church covenant continues in a state of unfaithfulness to its provisions, the other is released from certain obligations.

New Covenant Bible Church Partnership is birthed out of our love for the church body and its individual members whom we hope will experience the fullness of joy which is found in the presence of the Lord. The primary purpose of this covenant is to serve as a teaching document with three functions:

- *To clarify the biblical obligations and expectations for both the elders of NCBC and the individual members of the NCBC body.*
- *To establish teaching and doctrinal parameters for the NCBC body.*
- *To serve as a tool for reflection and growth toward holiness.*

Each of these functions is in accordance with the document’s overall vision to provide an accessible explanation of the Scriptures in hopes that NCBC would grow in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

The NCBC Covenant Partnership is comprised of the NCBC Statement of Faith, the obligations of the NCBC elders to the NCBC body and the obligations of members to the NCBC body. The basic doctrines within the NCBC Statement of Faith represent what we believe to be core elements of biblical teaching. We expect all members of NCBC to affirm these doctrines.

As members of New Covenant Bible Church, we affirm this covenant with one another by God's grace for our good and ultimately for God's glory.

Having been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to surrender our lives to Him, and having been baptized as Christians in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we covenant together to glorify God by discipling all nations.

Together, we will draw near to God in worship. We will delight in the glory of God, depend on the presence of God, grow in the knowledge of God, and submit to the Word of God as the all-sufficient authority in our lives and in His church.

Together we will hold fast to the hope we profess. We will regularly participate in communion as we solemnly and joyfully remember the past work of Christ on the cross, celebrate the present work of Christ at the Father's right hand, and anticipate the future work of Christ in his return for his bride.

Together, we will stir one another up to love and good works. We will meet with one another consistently, pray for one another regularly, and serve one another selflessly. We will share each other's joys and bear each other's burdens. We will listen carefully to one another, build one another up with our speech, and encourage one another with our example. We will humbly and gently confront one another and receive correction from one another in accordance with a New Testament understanding of church discipline and restoration. We will give cheerfully and generously to the support of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to all nations.

We will submit to the leadership of elders who have been entrusted by God to serve and care for this body by teaching the Word of Christ to us and modeling the character of Christ before us, and we will affirm deacons as leading servants in the church. If we move from this local body, we will as soon as possible unite with another local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

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## Biblical Obligations of New Covenant Bible Church

### *Elders to NCBC Body*

As shepherds and overseers of a local church, elders are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping and caring for the corporate church body and her individual members. The following is a rather extensive overview of the requirements for elders as spelled out within the Scriptures:

#### *The elders covenant:*

- I. To appoint elders and deacons (including staff members who serve in these offices) according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1Tim. 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Pet. 5:1–4).
- II. 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 following of the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1–4).
- III. To care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth and love (Matt. 28:16–20; Eph. 4:15–16; Col. 1:28; James 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:1–4).
- IV. To provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27–28; 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:1–5; Titus 2:1).
- V. To equip the members of the church for the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11–16).
- VI. To be on guard and protect against false teachers and teachings (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:28–31; 1 Tim. 1:3–7; 1 John 4:1).
- VII. To lovingly exercise discipline when necessary, for the glory of 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).
- VIII. To set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated below (Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7–8; 1 Pet. 5:3).

## ***Members to NCBC Body***

As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to reflect the character of Christ through the pursuit of certain attitudes and actions and the rejection of others. The Scriptures refer to this reality as “living by the Spirit” (Rom. 8). The requirements of this membership covenant are in no way intended as an addition to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, this document functions primarily as an accessible yet non-exhaustive explanation of what the Scriptures teach about the obedience that faith produces.

### ***As a member of NCBC, I covenant:***

- I. To submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21).
- II. To pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Eph. 5:1-21; 1 Thess. 5:12-22).
- III. To follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church:
  - A. by being baptized by immersion after my conversion.
  - B. by regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion.
- IV. To regularly participate in the life of NCBC by attending weekly services, engaging in gospel-centered community and serving those within and outside of this church (Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; Titus 3:14).
- V. To steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts and 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).
- VI. By God’s grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:13-16, 4:1-3). Believers should strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit.
- VII. To refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Rom. 14:14-23). to take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Cor. 8:1-13).
- VIII. To submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by:
  - A. following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another—the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.

- B. receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15–20; 1 Cor. 5:9–13; Heb. 12:5–11).
- IX. To do the following when I sin:
- A. confess my sin to God and to fellow believers.
  - B. repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6–10).
- X. To submit to the elders and other appointed leaders of the church and diligently strive for unity and peace within the church (Eph. 4:1–3; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:5).
- XI. To do the following should I leave the church for righteous reasons:
- A. to notify the elders of NCBC
  - B. to seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.

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I have read the NCBC Statement of Faith and commit to live out this mission as a faithful follower of Jesus and a covenant member of this local body. I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of NCBC and is an acknowledgement of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to meet with the leadership of NCBC if at any time I am no longer able to commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding NCBC.

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Elder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_