



Sacred City Church

Membership Covenant

Introduction

As Christians, we are members of God's household (Eph. 2:19) called to function, participate, and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member do its part well. A healthy church requires the same: members who are sacrificially committed and well-equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10; 4:12). Sacred City Church holds its members in high regard; we expect them to lead as missionaries of the gospel to the culture. God, in his sovereignty, placed us in this city, among these people, in this century, for a reason (Acts 17:26-27).

Being a member of Sacred City Church is really about being part of a family. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way we collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving non-Christians. Members who enter into a covenant with their local church are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and deacons are covenanted to assist members first and foremost, to love and lead, provide counsel and aid, and pray for, teach, and guide them.

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 (Ezek. 20:44; 36:22; Ps. 76:11; Hos. 2:19-20; 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:13). The Sacred City Church Membership Covenant includes a profession of faith, the obligations of Sacred City Church to its members, and the obligations of members to Sacred City 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).

Profession 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. 5:6; 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 have been made a new creation in Christ (1 John 1:9; 2 Cor. 5:17).
- In obedience to Scripture, I have been baptized to personally identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Rom. 6:3-5, Col. 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21).

Obligation of Sacred City Church Leadership to Members

- We covenant that our 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).
- 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 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; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers, and take action to protect you from them (Acts 20:28-31).
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (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 as a Member, to Sacred City Church

- I have read and understood the Sacred City Church Theological Distinctives 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 have read and understood the Sacred City Church position paper, "The Sacraments," and will not be divisive to its teaching.
- I understand that Sacred City Church doctrine is also communicated and specified through various channels, such as sermons, published materials, and other writings distributed by Sacred City Church.
- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- I will 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 gatherings, communion, community, service, 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 will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family (Heb. 13:17).

- I covenant to biblically resolve conflict when it arises; to live a life of repentance when I sin against my brothers and sisters, approaching them to ask forgiveness; to approach my brothers and sisters when they sin against me, not holding their sin against them, but forgiving them and pursuing reconciliation with them (Matt. 18:15-17; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; Col. 3:13).
- 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; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25).
 - *Note: Members of Sacred Church are not guaranteed confidentiality regarding issues of church discipline, and understand that in submitting themselves to the authority of the church, issues of a sensitive or personal nature may become known to others. This includes, but is not limited to, notification of authorities if a crime has been committed or if a real threat of someone being endangered exists, as well as other violations of Scripture that may not result in physical danger.*
- I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin so 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, 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, my pastors, and my conscience dictate (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 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 commit to keeping my monthly giving pledge updated and accurate via monthly checks or through the online giving site.

My monthly giving commitment will be:
\$_____.

This amount is a joint commitment with my spouse:
 Yes No

I commit to being a part of the following Missional Community family: _____.

Signatures

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Sacred City Church and is an acknowledgement of my submission to the elders of Sacred City Church. I accept the responsibility to notify Sacred City Church leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Sacred City Church.

Finally, I commit that if or when I must leave Sacred City Church, I will, if possible, leave in a peaceful and respectful way as to honor this church body and the greater body of Christ for the glory of God.

Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Elder Signature: _____ **Date:** _____