



# RESTORATION CHURCH

## Membership Covenant

The Restoration Church Membership Covenant documents the scriptural requirements for the church, its elders, and its members. The Membership Covenant contains four sections: (1) a description of the church, (2) a description of covenants, (3) the obligations of the elders to Restoration Church, and (4) the obligations of members to Restoration Church.

### What is the Church?

The church is the gathering of the redeemed, the household of God (Eph. 2:19), the body and bride of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12–31; Rev. 21:2, 9). 1 Corinthians 12 speaks of many members within the same body. Just as a human body contains many parts that work together for proper functioning, the body of Christ requires its individual members working together as one body. As the scriptures say, “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you’” (1 Cor. 12:21). We all have gifts that differ according to the gracious provision of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:3–8) which are necessary for the flourishing of the church.

The church exists to display the glory of God. Since the beginning, God has been calling His people for His glory in a grand narrative of redemption and reconciliation. Though creation now suffers the curse of sin, God is at work carrying out His redemptive plan. The church universal (all believers, everywhere) is the means by which God is fulfilling His purposes in the world (2 Cor. 5:17–20). In light of this reality, the opportunity to join a local church body (a particular group of believers in a particular place) is much more than a commitment to consistent attendance or active involvement in community. It is a sacred call to be involved in the redemptive work of our sovereign God to push back the darkness of a fallen world through the power of the Holy Spirit with the light of His Son, Jesus Christ. Membership at Restoration 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.

### What is a Covenant?

A covenant is generally defined as a written agreement or promise between two or more parties to perform certain obligations and is usually signed. 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) and others between men (1 Sam. 18; 2 Sam. 5).

The Restoration Church covenant sets forth the promises and responsibilities of its elders and members. The elders promise to faithfully fulfill the scriptural requirements of the office of elder as well as their roles as members of Restoration Church. The members promise to fulfill the scriptural requirements of being a Christ follower. Most of these requirements are merely general Christian obligations. For

example, all Christians, whether part of Restoration Church or not, are required to submit to the scriptures, pursue holiness, repent of sin, and steward resources.

If a party to this covenant fails to fulfill its obligations, the members who have such information need to report the issue to the elders, who will meet with the affected parties to attempt to resolve the issue under the authority of scripture and the gracious power of the Holy Spirit. If the issue is not resolved through this process, there may be grounds for termination of the covenant with respect to the affected parties. This could include removal of an elder or member from the church.

### **Biblical Obligations of the Elders to Restoration Church**

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 elders covenant to fulfill these obligations as detailed in the scriptures as follows:

- **to appoint elders and deacons (including staff members who serve in these offices) according to the qualifications set forth in the scriptures** (1 Tim. 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Pet. 5:1–4).
- **to prayerfully seek God’s will for Restoration Church and faithfully steward her resources, under the authority of the scriptures and leading of the Holy Spirit** (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1–4).
- **to care for Restoration 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).
- **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).
- **to equip the members of the church for the work of ministry** (Eph. 4:11–16).
- **to guard against false teachers and teachings** (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:28–31; 1 Tim. 1:3–7; 1 John 4:1).
- **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).
- **to fulfill the obligations of church membership stated below as a loving example to the body** (Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7–8; 1 Pet. 5:3).

### **Biblical Obligations of Members to Restoration Church**

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 Restoration Church, I covenant

- **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).

- 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).
- **to follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His church:**
  - by being baptized after my conversion.
  - by regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion.
- **to regularly participate in the life of Restoration Church 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).
- **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).
- **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** (1Pet. 1:13–16, 4:1–3).
- **to strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and service through the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- **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).
- **to submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by:**
  - following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another—the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.
  - 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).
- **to do the following when I sin:**
  - confess my sin to God and to fellow believers.
  - repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; James 5:16; 1John 1:6–10).
- **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).
- **to do the following should I leave the church for righteous reasons:**
  - to notify the appropriate staff member
  - to seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.