

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

TOM BEAN

## **Membership Covenant**

Having been led, as we believe, by the spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our mutual faith founded upon the Word of God, having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now and in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of Christ's Church in knowledge and holiness. To strive together for the support of the work of the gospel in sustaining holy and acceptable worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the advancement of the Kingdom.

We also engage to maintain family and private worship, training up our children in the Word, to actively seek to share our common faith with all; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements; and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all divisiveness and that which leads to disunity, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom for His name's sake.

We further engage 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 feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the commands of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other 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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## Annual Covenant Renewal Sunday Service

- No Sunday School; Instead have a special time of gathered prayer and song as a church family beginning at 9:45 – 10:00
  - Prayer time should focus on aligning with the will of God individually and corporately, and should include prayers concerning the coming year and activities surrendering all to the Will of God and praying that He is greatly glorified in our efforts
  - Prayers for unity of the body, strengthening of our families, and Christ's blessings to engage our community for His name's sake
- 10:00-10:30 Coffee and refreshments
- Order of Service
  - Praise Team open in song
  - Reading from Scripture and Prayer
  - Pastor/Elder- Review of previous year celebrating all that God accomplished conclude with prayer of thanksgiving for God allowing us to be part of His work in that year
  - Songs (2)
  - Sermon (dealing with some aspect of the church: life, unity, purpose, etc.)
  - Introduction of any new Elders/Deacons. Announcement of any Elder/Deacon retiring/stepping down/sabbatical of any length
  - Re-Affirmation of Elders and Deacons
    - Reading of Elder/Deacon commitment to the membership (Elders and Deacons affirms)
    - Reading of the membership's commitment to the Elder/Deacons (membership affirms)
  - Re-Affirmation of Covenant Membership (Pastor reads, membership affirms)
  - Communion observed
  - Dismissal prayer
  - Church provides lunch and enjoys afternoon of fellowship and fun

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## **Elder Covenant**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to serve as under shepherds of Christ to His church, we do now in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with the membership of this gathering of believers.

Having recognized that ours is an appointment to be lived in full submission to God according to His Word, we commit to actively engage in meeting the qualifications set out for the position of elder in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, and to continue with the help of the Holy Spirit meeting the qualifications.

We commit to preach, teach, and lead you according to the Word of God and not our individual preferences; to hold you accountable to the profession of faith, the Word, and this body; to encourage you in your sanctification, and to walk with you in this life for His glory.

We submit ourselves to be examined according to the Word that we may walk blamelessly before our God whom we joyfully serve; and should we at any point cease to meet the qualifications set forward in scripture, out of respect for the office of elder, love for the Word, and respect for this local body, will step down until such time as we can be restored to faithful service unto God for His glory and your good.

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## **Deacon Covenant**

Having been chosen from among the body according to the Word of God and having met qualifications set forward in I Timothy 3:8-12, we do now and in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with the membership of this gathering of believers.

We commit to serve this body under the spiritual direction of the elders in meeting the physical needs of the body, protecting its unity, and leading in acts of service in love to one another for the up building of the body in humble service for the glory of God and the maturing of this local body.

We submit ourselves to be examined according to the Word that we may walk blamelessly before our God whom we joyfully serve; and should we at any point cease to meet the qualifications set forward in scripture, out of respect for the office of deacon, love for the Word, and respect for this local body, will step down until such time as we can be restored to faithful service unto God for His glory and your good.

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## **Membership's Covenant to Offices**

Having studied and understood the offices of the body as ordained by Christ, including the qualifications and responsibilities of these offices, we do now in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with the leadership that God has placed over this gathering.

We commit to obey our leaders and submit to them for they keep watch over our souls as those who will give an account unto the Lord. We commit to hold them accountable to the qualifications set forward for the offices they hold and not according to our personal preferences.

We further commit to pray for them and support them in the work that God has portioned them for the up building of His church; and to support them physically and financially in accordance with the Word; to not tear them down nor spread rumors but to go to them when there is reason for concern; to help restore them should they cease to meet the qualifications for their office; to love them as a brother, and honor them as a servant of the Lord for His glory and our good.