

CHURCH COVENANT FOR CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH OF ROCKY MOUNT

Article 4 of Christ Covenant Church's bylaws

Christ Covenant Church desires to see lives changed by the Gospel

The church is the agency by which God is accomplishing His purposes in the world. The church exists to display the glory of God because all things exist for His glory. By sovereign grace, followers of Jesus have been invited into God's redemptive purposes for the world through the church. In light of this reality, the opportunity to join a local church is much more than a commitment to consistent attendance or active involvement in community. It is also a sacred call to be involved in the redemptive work of our sovereign God and to be an "embassy of heaven" of the present and future Kingdom of God. Therefore, we will covenant together to fulfill these purposes and hold one another accountable to this high calling.

Christ Covenant Church Elders' Obligations to the Church Body

As overseers of a local church, elders are men entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping and caring for the corporate church body and her individual members. The following is an overview of the requirements for elders as defined within the Scriptures.

The Elders Covenant...

- To, along with the input of the members, appoint elders and deacons according to the criteria assigned to them in Scripture (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- 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 the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- To oversee the growth of members, as those who will give an account to Christ, for the disciple's growth in grace, truth, and love (Matt. 28:16-20; Eph. 4:15-16; Jam. 5:14; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- To provide teaching and counsel from the whole 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, including future Elders and Church Planters (Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 2:2).
- To be on guard against false teachers and teachings (Matt. 7:15; Jn. 10:12-13; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 1 Jn. 4:1).
- To lovingly oversee the exercise of 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; Jam. 5:19-20).
- To set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated in the church covenant (Acts 20:28; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Pet. 5:3).

Christ Covenant Church Members Covenant Obligations

Scripture speaks to the sacred significance of church membership. In short, it should be meaningful. Therefore, we believe it is important to covenant together as a church family. As members, we affirm this covenant with one another, by God's grace, for our growth, for our perseverance in faith, and ultimately for the glory of our Triune God.

- **Baptized Regenerate Community that Makes Disciples** -Having been called and enabled by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 6:44; Acts 3:19, 16:31, 17:30, 20:21; Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-10;) and to surrender our lives to Him (Lk. 14:25-33), and having been baptized by immersion as born again Christians (Jn. 3:3; Acts 8:38, Acts 10:44-48) in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:1-4), we covenant with one another as one body in Christ to glorify God (Isa. 43:7; 1 Cor.

10:31) by worshipping “in spirit and truth” (John 4:23), and by making disciples of Jesus among all nations (Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:2; Ps. 67:1-2; Rev. 7:9-10). Recognizing that it is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations, we will seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other means in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

- **Worship Together Regularly around the Scriptures and the Lord’s Supper** - Together, we will consistently and faithfully draw near to God in corporate worship on the Lord’s Day, a Christian Sabbath; the first day of the week (Mt. 28:1; Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:22). We will delight in the glory of God (Ps. 16:11, 37:4, 63:1-11), depend on the presence of God (Matt. 28:20; Jn. 15:5, 16:7; 1 Pet. 4:11), and grow in the knowledge of God (Phil. 3:10; Col. 1:9-12; 2 Pet. 3:17-18) by submitting to the Word of God in all matters of life as the all-sufficient authority in our lives and in His Church (Ps. 19:7-11, 119:105-112; 2 Tim. 3:14-4-5). Together, we will hold fast to the hope we profess (Heb. 10:23). We will participate regularly in the Lord’s Supper (Lk. 22:7-23; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-32) as we reverently and joyfully remember the past work of Christ’s atoning sacrifice (2 Cor. 5:21), celebrate the present help of Christ as our mediator who ever lives to intercede for us at the Father’s right hand (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 4:14-16, 7:25, 9:24; 1 Tim. 2:5), and anticipate the future return of Christ as the King of Kings (Titus 2:13; Rev. 19:16).
- **Disciple and Care for One Another in Community Groups** - The Gospel creates community – we are committed to living life together and challenging one another to grow as disciples of Christ. We are committed to living out the Gospel and its implications for everyday life (1 Pet. 3:15, Gal. 2:14). Together, we will spur one another on to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24). We will meet with one another consistently in community groups, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25). We will also pray for one another regularly (Ephesians 6:18-20) and serve one another selflessly (Romans 12:9-13).
- **Submit to the Leadership of the Church** - We will cooperate with, submit to, and prayerfully support the leadership of the pastors (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 (Heb. 13:7, 17; Ac. 6:1-7; 20:28-31; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17-20; 1 Pet. 5:1-4). We will seek the guidance of our elders and community groups in major life decisions.
- **Good Stewards** - We covenant that we will give cheerfully, regularly, and generously to the support of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel both in our city and through all nations (2 Cor. 8-9). We affirm that we will give our spiritual gifts, time, resources, and money in a sacrificial manner consistent with the Gospel and for its progress.
- **Display God’s Glory through Unity and Discipline** -
 - Unity – Together, we will seek to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3). We affirm that we are God’s church and not our own. Therefore our preferences, needs, and desires are secondary to the mission and vision of the church.
 - Restorative Discipline – 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 (Mt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; Gal. 6:1). We will submit to and prayerfully support the leadership of our pastors (elders) as they seek to oversee discipline within our church.
- **Christian Growth** - We affirm our responsibility to grow in Christ and his Gospel through the consistent use of Christ’s “means of grace” such as prayer, Scripture reading, corporate worship, participation in the Lord’s Table, and sitting under the preaching of God’s word. We affirm, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to exercise our Christian liberty with responsibility, remembering that because of the Gospel, we have a special obligation to lead a new and holy life (e.g., repentance from and ongoing avoidance of backbiting, gossip, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, drug addictions, and alcohol abuse).
- **Gospel-Centered Families** - We will endeavor to build Gospel-Centered homes. Husbands will seek to love and lead their wives and children sacrificially as Christ loves and leads the church, meaning husbands are ready to lay down their lives for their families (Eph. 5). Wives will seek to submit to their husbands, as the church does to Christ. As parents, we will raise the children under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4), and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends.