

Church Covenant (Part 2)

Foundations

Feb. 3, 2019

1. Introduction

Text of the Covenant	Scripture	What it means for us as a church
Confessing our Dependence on God		
Having been led, by divine grace, to repent of our sins and to believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior	John 3:3-8; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6	<i>This is our most essential bond as church members. We share a common faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.</i>
and having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit	Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38, 41; Rom. 6:4	<i>Baptism by immersion must come after we profess faith in Jesus Christ. Only those who have made a public profession of faith in Christ may be a member.</i>
we, in the presence of God and by His grace, joyfully and solemnly covenant with the members of Grand Avenue Baptist Church.	Neh. 9:38; Amos 3:3; Titus 3:8; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:13-27; Heb. 3:12-14; Heb. 10:19-25	<i>This agreement is the heart of church membership. We commit to being a body together, with Christ as our head.</i>

2. Promises

Commitment to Remind One Another of the Gospel		
We endeavor to remember and to remind one another of Jesus Christ, crucified for our sins and risen from the dead.	Rom. 10:13-16; 1 Cor. 1:18; Col. 1:3-14; Heb. 3:12-14; Heb. 4:11-16; Heb. 10:19-25	<i>The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the heart of the Bible. Understanding it and reminding one another of the gospel is a necessary means of grace. Since we are prone to so easily forget the gospel in our daily lives we need our brothers and sisters in Christ to remind us of the gospel.</i>

Commitment to the Unity of GABC		
We endeavor to work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace	John 17:11; Eph. 2:11-22; Eph. 4:1-16, 29, 31; Gal. 5:16, 25	<i>Unity in the local church is a fragile thing. As church members we need to be committed to praying for and striving for unity among our members.</i>
We strive to walk together in Christian love through the power of the Holy Spirit.	Matt. 6:12; 7:1-5, 12; Eph. 5:1	<i>Not only do we have a personal interest in one another's lives but we have a gospel interest in one another's lives that flows from the love of God for us that is given to us through the person and work of Christ.</i>
We endeavor to exercise affectionate care and watchfulness for each other, using our spiritual gifts for the common good,	Rom. 12:9-12; Eph. 4:9-32, Heb. 3:12-14; Heb. 10:19-25	<i>The love we have for one another overflows in the exercise of our spiritual gifts for the good of our church family.</i>
So that together we might live to God's glory.	John 17:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:31	<i>All things are always done to the glory of God so that both insiders and outsiders see the evidence of Christ in our lives.</i>

Commitment to Love Our Fellow Church Members

We endeavor to rejoice with each other's joys and bear each other's burdens with tenderness and sympathy.	John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:4-16	<i>Doing life together means we will walk with our brothers and sisters when they are suffering and when they are rejoicing.</i>
We strive to regularly encourage each other and pray for each other.	Eph. 1:16; Eph. 6:18	<i>We humbly confess our need and dependence on God when we pray. We encourage our church members to pray for one another on a regular basis. We encourage them to pray through the church directory as part of their time alone with God.</i>
When offenses occur, we stand ready to reconcile.	Matt. 12:34-35; 1 Cor. 13; Eph. 4:29, 32; Col. 3:16, 4:6; James 3:2-12; 1 Peter 4:8	<i>Reconciliation with others is a normal part of the Christian life. Our life in Christ began when we were reconciled to God through Christ so how can we withhold reconciliation from others.</i>
We endeavor to submit to the church's discipline and lovingly assume our responsibility to participate in the discipline of other members, as taught in Scripture.	Matt. 18:15-20, 1 Cor. 5:1-9, 2 Cor. 2:5-11, Titus 1:10-16	<i>Church discipline is both formative and corrective. Its aim is to bring brothers and sisters in Christ who have sinned grievously to repentance.</i>

Commitment to Our Local Body

We endeavor to meet together as a church body, faithfully participating in corporate worship and members meetings.	Col. 3:16; Heb. 10:24-25	<i>Participating in the life of the local church through its worship services and members' meetings are not optional. The church is not a club but a gospel outpost on earth to proclaim the glory of God and refresh the lives of the saints through its regular gathering.</i>
We endeavor to continue a faithful biblical ministry in this church maintaining its worship,	Rom. 1:25; 12:1; Eph. 5:19; Col. 2:18; 3:16; Rev. 4:9	<i>We commit to meet faithfully for worship.</i>
We endeavor to continue a faithful biblical ministry in this church maintaining its . . . ordinances,	Matt. 28:19; Luke 22:17-20; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 11:23-32	<i>The two ordinances Jesus gave the church as a visible display of the gospel's work in the lives of believers is the Lord's Supper and Baptism. Baptism is for new believers and the Lord's Supper is the ongoing celebration and reminders of Christ's covenant in His blood.</i>
We endeavor to continue a faithful biblical ministry in this church maintaining its . . . discipline,	Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:5-9; Gal. 6:2; Titus 3:10	<i>We commit to love one another enough to take the formal step of church discipline when necessary. Repentance and restoration are always the goal.</i>
We endeavor to continue a faithful biblical ministry in this church maintaining its . . . doctrines.	Gal. 1:8-9; Rom. 16:17; 2 John 10	<i>We agree with GABC's doctrinal statement (The Baptist Faith and Message 2000) and strive to make sure GABC remains faithful to these biblical doctrines.</i>
To this end, we strive to contribute time and money cheerfully and regularly to support this church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.	Deut. 15:7-11; Prov. 3:9-10; Prov. 19:17; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 6:1-4; Matt. 28:18; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 12:33; 2 Cor. 9:7; Heb. 13:16	<i>We commit to regularly give financially to GABC's budget, to support its ministries, to help the poor, and to spread the gospel to all peoples.</i>

Commitment to Pursue Holiness in our Lives

We endeavor by God's grace and power to live as Christ in the world, resisting ungodliness and worldly desires, leading holy lives, being honest in our dealings and faithful in our responsibilities and commitments.	Gal. 5:22-24; 1 Thess. 4:1-12; Titus 2:12; 1 Pet. 1:14; Heb. 12:14	<i>It is our aim to live as our Savior did when He walked this earth. We will strive to fight sin and lives holy lives in practical ways in our daily lives.</i>
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Commitment to Pursue Family Discipleship

We endeavor to practice personal and family discipleship,	Deut. 6:1-9; Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 119:9-17; Luke 5:16; 1 Tim. 4:7-8	<i>As members of a church it is important that we strive to practice personal devotions and family discipleship. Regular time alone with God in private and family devotions should be a regular part of our lives.</i>
Training our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.	Deut. 6:7; Judges 2:10-11; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:20-21	<i>Not only is family devotions important but parenting in such a way that the gospel is brought to bear on the hearts and lives of our children is important.</i>

Commitment to Forgive One Another

When we fail in any of these endeavors, we will strive to practice repentance and forgiveness.	Matt. 6:12, 14-15; Mark 11:25; Luke 6:37; Eph. 4:32-5:2; Col. 3:13	<i>We will eventually fail to keep this covenant. When this occurs we must practice repentance and forgiveness with others and ourselves.</i>
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Commitment to Carry Out the Spirit of this Covenant if We Leave GABC

Should we leave this fellowship, we will seek to unite with another church where we can continue to carry out the spirit of this covenant.	Acts 9:26; Acts 1:18:27; Rom. 16:1-2	<i>If the Lord moves us from this fellowship, we commit to join a like-minded church in order to practice the spirit of this covenant.</i>
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3. The Benediction

Asking for God's Grace to Cover Us as We Commit to Pursue Life Together

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.	2 Cor. 13:14	<i>The Introduction and Benediction remind us where our strength to carry out the intentions of this covenant come from—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is a Trinitarian covenant.</i>
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Grand Avenue Baptist Church Covenant

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We endeavor to meet together as a church body, faithfully participating in corporate worship and members' meetings.

We endeavor to continue a faithful biblical ministry in this church maintaining its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. To this end, we strive to contribute time and money cheerfully and regularly to support this church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.

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