

## CHURCH COVENANT

### Members' Statement of Purpose & Desire

Having been led by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, having been born again through the Holy Spirit, and having publicly confessed my faith by word and in Baptism, I subscribe to the Articles of Faith of Greater Northwest Baptist Church and do now with other members of the church as one body in Christ state my purpose and desire as an active member of this church to live up to these ideals. (John 1:12-13, 3:6-7; Romans 6:3-5, 10:8-10)

To pray for the advancement of this church in knowledge, spiritual growth, and fruitfulness, to uphold its program of worship, training, and teaching, to observe its ordinances of baptism by submersion and Communion, affirm its teachings, and faithfully attend its services. (John 15:8, 16; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:24-27; Acts 2: 38, 8:35-38; Rom. 6:3-4; I Pet. 3:15; Jude 3; Heb. 10:2)

To give regularly and cheerfully as God prospers for the support of an evangelistic, teaching, and training ministry among us, for the relief of the needy, and for the spread of the Gospel both here in Indianapolis and over all the earth. (I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7; Proverbs 19:17; Acts 1:8; I Thessalonians 3:2)

To witness for Christ, endeavoring by my example and effort to seek the salvation of my family and friends by pointing them to Christ, and to do my part in building them up in the faith. (Matthew 5:16, 28: 19-20; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28)

To be willing to serve faithfully in some activity in the church body according to my spiritual gifts and abilities, taking care to assume only such duties, consistent with my conduct and as can be effectively performed, and to improve my service by prayerful and diligent study of God's Word. (Romans 12; 1 Cor. 12; James 1:22-24; 2:18; I Cor. 4:2; II Tim. 2:15)

To endeavor to understand and appreciate my fellow members in the church body, especially those who may have personalities, ministries and backgrounds quite different than I, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; and to be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation. (Rom. 14:1-7; I Cor. 12:4-7, 18-27; Gal. 3:26-28, 6:1-2)

To always walk lovingly and humbly with my brethren, to pray for them, and to aid them in sickness and distress. To follow the Bible as my rule of faith and practice, endeavoring to put into practice the Scriptures relating to our church as the Body of Christ, and to me as a believer. (John 13:34-35; I Pet. 5:6; Rom. 12:3; James 5:16; II Tim. 3:16-17)

To walk circumspectly in the world, be just in my dealings, faithful in my engagements, an example in my conduct, avoiding all tattling, backbiting, sexual sins, excessive anger and to abstain from the sale and use of tobacco, and being intoxicated with alcoholic drinks. To avoid any worldly and unchristian practices which may be an offence to the holiness of God, believers, and unbelievers. To refrain from membership in secret societies whose activities are contrary to the Word of God. (Titus 2:12; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 4:22-32; I Thess. 5:22; Rom. 14:21; II Cor. 6:14)

To maintain personal and family devotions, training and discipling myself and my family. To always encourage family prayer, Bible study and spiritual growth for anyone under my care. To honor, pray for, and follow the leading of the Pastors and Deacons, recognizing that they have been chosen by God and this Congregation to oversee this ministry.

(Philemon 6; Prov. 22:6; Heb.13:7; I Thess. 5:12; I Tim. 5:17-19; Acts 6:3)

We, moreover, engage that, when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible unite with some church where we can carry out the spirit of this statement and the principles of God's Word. In the event there is no such church, we shall seek, with the Lord's help, to establish one. (Heb. 10:25)