



260 W. Main Street, Hendersonville, TN 37075

(615) 434-5444

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Why is a membership covenant a big deal? Why is it necessary to sign up to be a member of a church? These are common and understandable questions. We believe at The Movement Church that membership is a big deal on many levels. We believe membership serves three primary responsibilities:

1. An overall understanding of the Biblical expectations for the church member and the church leadership.
2. Accountability for the church member and the church leadership in regards to doctrine and conduct in life.
3. To assist in ministering and discipling the people that God has entrusted us with.
4. To assist in making wise and prayerful decisions with the resources God has entrusted us with.

This is a simple overview of what a membership covenant means at TMC. This document should be read and prayed over. Our heart is that you would be led by the mercy and graces of God to find the church home that God desires for you to be planted in.

What is a covenant?

Covenant is simply defined as an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified. Covenants are a major theme of the Scriptures. The clearest picture of covenant in the Bible is God making covenant with man for the salvation of our souls. The life of Jesus was a fulfillment of God's covenant with His people. In this covenant God bound Himself to fulfill both sides of the agreement. Other places in scripture show us covenants where two parties were involved. In these instances, one party was relieved of their side of the agreement when the other party involved did not fulfill their obligation and responsibility. The membership covenant at TMC is the latter. If at any time one of the individuals in the covenant membership is unfaithful to their agreement then the other is released from their obligations.

Some of the requirements are merely the basic understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Regardless of where you place membership it is expected that every believer is baptized, pursues holiness, seeks a constant relationship with God, and shares the Gospel.

Some of the requirements in this covenant are designed specifically for achieving the vision of The Movement Church. While these views do not hold the Biblical weight that the basic principals do, as a covenant member we expect them to be held as precious and dear to each person joining TMC.

If at any point in time you feel that TMC has not fulfilled it's covenant agreement, it is the member's responsibility to lovingly and humbly share those thoughts with the church leadership. One of the primary needs for membership is accountability for the member and for the church.

What covenant does not mean is all members will be in total uniformity and agreement on all issues. We all come from various backgrounds and life experiences. What covenant means is that all people involved have the same goal. It is clear in scripture that the goal simply is the glory and preeminence of God in all things.

Expectations of the Leadership of TMC

As a member of The Movement Church these are the things you can expect from the leadership of the church:

- To prayerfully seek God's will for the direction of TMC in all areas.
- To prioritize the care of our members spiritually and physically.
- To hire and appoint qualified leaders that will assist in accomplishing the vision God has for His church. All leaders will meet the criteria outlined for their office in Scripture.
- To be on guard against false teachings and misleading movements.
- To provide a safe environment so that people may come and seek God without fear of bodily or spiritual harm.
- To provide an atmosphere that allows the process of sanctification to take place in the life of believers.
- To maintain accountability with the church body so that we may all function as one.
- To equip and train believers for the ministry inside and outside of the church.
- To teach and preach from the entire counsel of the Bible.

- To exercise Godly discipline when necessary for the health of the believer and the glory of God in the church.
- To provide clear and correct communication for the sake of unity in the body.
- To set an example for all members of TMC in conduct, speech, spirit, and lifestyle.
- To always see the glory of God as the primary motivation for every decision made at TMC.

Expectations of Members at TMC

As a member of The Movement Church these are the principals you are making a covenant to keep:

- To submit to the Bible as the ultimate authority on all issues.
- To personally pursue God in daily relationship with Him. This is possible through the study of Scripture, seeking God in prayer, and any other spiritual means that allows you to know God more intimately.
- To pray for the body of believers daily.
- To willingly serve the needs of the church and the community.
- To participate in the community of The Movement Church through our weekly gatherings, community groups, and various other events.
- To steward the gifts God has given me, including time, talent, spiritual gifts, and finances. This includes regular financial giving that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary.
- By the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to God. Also serving as a reflection of God's glory and goodness to man.
- To continually search my heart and life for areas that are sinful according to the Bible.
- To refrain from actions that the Bible determines as foolish.
- To guard against participating in actions that could be a stumbling block for others.

- To submit to the leadership of TMC Biblically. This should not be confused with blindly following the leadership.
- To lovingly and humbly engage leadership on issues of disagreement or misunderstanding.
- To notify the appropriate staff member or elder should I feel led to end membership at TMC.