



# Movement Church

## Membership Covenant

We believe membership at Movement Church is essential. We believe church membership serves four primary responsibilities:

1. An overall understanding of the Biblical expectations for the church members and leadership.
2. Accountability for the church members and leadership regarding doctrine and conduct in life.
3. To assist in ministering and discipling the people 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.

## Why join a local church?

The local church is God's plan for continuing the work of reconciliation in the world. From Acts to today, God has chosen His body to demonstrate and declare His Kingdom in a given context. The universal church (all believers, everywhere) is how God will glorify Himself and fulfill His purposes in the world. The local church is an expression of this.

The church is the gathering of the household of faith. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, the church is called the body of Christ. Just as a body mutually depends on its other parts, we rely on one another to function correctly. The church is also called the Bride of Christ. This helps us understand that the local church will be the primary place where followers of Jesus are shaped into the image of Christ.

In the context of the local church, we are given a place within the family of faith to be known for who we are, loved unconditionally, shaped into the image of Jesus, and invited to participate in the work of God in a particular place.

## What is a covenant?

A covenant is an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified. Covenants are a significant theme of the Scriptures. The Bible's most precise picture of covenant is God making a covenant with man for the salvation of our souls.

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, 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. Some of the conditions in this covenant are unique to TMC. At the same time, these views do not hold the

Biblical weight that the basic principals do; as members, 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 its 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 the church.

Covenant does not mean 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 evident in scripture that the goal is the glory and preeminence of God in all things.

### **Statement of Basic Belief**

The following beliefs represent the core of central orthodox beliefs from a Biblical perspective. The explicit rejection of these beliefs disqualifies one from membership at TMC.

- The scriptures are true, authoritative, and sufficient (Psalm 19v7-11; 2 Timothy 3v16; 2 Peter 1v20-21)
- There is only one God (Deuteronomy 6v4; Isaiah 45v5-6; Isaiah 46v9-10; John 17v3; 1 Corinthians 8v4-6; 1 Timothy 2v5)
- The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. The Father is neither the Son nor the Holy Spirit. The Son is neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. (Genesis 1v26; Psalm 45v6-7; Matthew 3v13-17; Matthew 28v17-20; 1 Corinthians 12v4-6)
- I am, along with all humanity (Christ excluded), by birth and action a sinner (Genesis 6v5; Psalm 51v5; Jeremiah 17v9; Romans 3v23; 5v8-21; Ephesians 2v1-3)
- The deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual (Genesis 2v15-17; Genesis 3v19; Romans 5v12; 6v23; James 1v14-15)
- Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin, and is both fully God and fully human (Matthew 1v20; Luke 2v52; John 1v1-4; Colossians 1v15-20; Hebrews 1v1-3)
- Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin (John 1v29; 10v1-18; Romans 5v8; 1 Corinthians 15v1-4; 2 Corinthians 5v21; Galatians 1v4; 1 Peter 3v18)
- Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead (Matthew 28v1-20; Mark 16v1-8; Luke 24v1-53; John 1v20-21; 1 Corinthians 15v12-34)
- Jesus Christ physically ascended into heaven and will one day physically return (John 14v3; Acts 1v11; 1 Thessalonians 4v16; Hebrews 9v28; 1 John 3v2; Revelation 1v7)
- There will be a future physical resurrection of the dead. Those who trust in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal reward. Those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal punishment. (Matthew 25v31-46; John 5v28-29; Acts 24v15)

- Only by trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can I be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy (John 3v18; 14v6; Acts 4v12; Romans 3v21-26; 1 Timothy 2v5-6)

### **TMC Distinctives**

While the doctrines in the statement of Basic Beliefs are recognized to be universal and primary within the Church, there are several secondary beliefs we affirm and support. Complete agreement is not required for membership, but it should be known that TMC leadership will preach, teach, and counsel by these convictions. For more information on these beliefs, please visit our website. Some of these include:

- Divine Sovereignty
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The role of men and women in the church and home
- Baptism by immersion

Along with these beliefs, we are committed to becoming disciples. As members of TMC, we hold one another accountable to the following definition of a disciple.

*A disciple reflects God through the study and application of His Word evidenced by Christlikeness, increasingly participates in the rhythms of Jesus evidenced by a growing love for God and others, belongs within a local community of faith, and lives a life of outward compassion.*

### **Expectations of the Leadership of MC**

As a member of 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 MC in all areas.
- To prioritize the care of our members spiritually and physically.
- To hire and appoint qualified leaders who will assist in accomplishing God's vision 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 sanctification to occur in believers' lives.
- To maintain accountability with the church body so we all function as one.
- To equip and train believers for the ministry inside and outside the church.
- To teach and preach from the entire counsel of the Bible.
- To provide clear and correct communication for unity in the body.
- To set an example for all members of MC in conduct, speech, spirit, and lifestyle.

- To always see the glory of God as the primary motivation for every decision made at MC.

### **Expectations of Members at MC**

As a member of Movement Church, these are the principles you are making a covenant to keep:

- To submit to the Bible as the ultimate authority on all issues.
- To personally pursue God in a daily relationship with Him. This is possible through studying Scripture, praying to God, and other spiritual means that allow you to know God more intimately.
- To pray for the body of believers.
- To willingly serve the needs of the church and the community.
- To participate in the community of 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.
- To continually search my heart and life for sinful areas 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 MC Biblically. This should be distinct from mindlessly 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 MC.