

PBC Membership Covenant

Introduction:

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)

As Christians, we are members of God's household (Eph. 2:19) called to function, participate, and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member do its part well. A healthy church requires the same: members who are sacrificially committed and well equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for them to do (Eph. 2:10; 4:12). Plainfield Bible Church holds its members in high regard; we expect them to lead as missionaries of the gospel to the culture. God, in His sovereignty, placed us in this city, among these people, in this century, for a reason (Acts 17:26-27).

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:3-8)

Being a member of Plainfield Bible Church is really about being part of a family. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way they collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving non-Christians. Members who enter into a covenant with their local church are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and deacons are covenanted to assist members first and foremost, to love and lead, provide counsel and aid, and pray for, teach, and guide them.

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (I Peter 4:8-10)

What is a Covenant?

A covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other (Ps. 76:11; Ezek. 20:44, 36:32; Hos. 2:19-20, 3:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:13). The Plainfield Bible Church covenant includes a statement of faith, a statement of biblical doctrine, the obligations of Plainfield Bible Church to its members, and the obligations of members of Plainfield Bible Church. Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to His glory and His bride, the church (Eph. 5:25).

Statement of Faith

- I am a Christian saved from the eternal wrath of God by faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through his death and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life (John 3:16-18; Rom. 3:23-26).
- I have repented of my sins and have been made a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 1:9).
- In obedience to Scripture, I have been baptized to personally identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and to publicly demonstrate my commitment as a disciple of Jesus (Col. 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21).

Statement of Biblical Doctrine

- I agree with the core beliefs of Plainfield Bible Church, which are expressed in the Plainfield Bible Church Constitution, specifically in the section *Declaration of Faith*.
- I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace; I will adhere to Plainfield Bible Church's position on primary theological issues, and I will not be divisive over secondary issues (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17).
- I agree that the sixty-six books of the bible are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters (Isa. 55:11; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:15-16; Heb. 4:12).

Obligation of Plainfield Bible Church to its Members

- We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-13, 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-5).
- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service (Eph. 4:11-13) and praying for you regularly (James 5:14).
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).

- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1)
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (I Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; I Tim. 4:12).

My Obligation to Plainfield Bible Church as a Member

- I have read and understood the Plainfield Bible Church Constitution and its doctrinal statement and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17).
- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, communion, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus Christ (Ps. 105:1-2, 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Pet. 1:3).
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom 12:1-2). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Rom. 12:1-8; 2 Cor. 8-9, 12:7-31; I Pet. 4:10-11).
- I covenant to submit to discipline by God through His Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:1-5; Gal. 6:1-5, 8; I Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9, 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11).
- I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin so that I could live a new life (2 Cor. 5:17).

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Plainfield Bible Church and is an acknowledgement of my agreement with the contents of the Constitution and my willing submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify Plainfield Bible Church's leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Plainfield Bible Church.

Signature: _____ Date: _____