



Church 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 called to function, participate, and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member does 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. Grace Fellowship Church Chilliwack (GFC) holds its members in high regard; we expect them to be missionaries of the Gospel to a lost and dying world. God, in His sovereignty, placed us in this city, among these people, in this century, for a reason.

With that said, this church covenant is designed to explain what we are committed to do for you, the member of GFC, and what we expect you to do in response.

What is a Covenant?

A covenant is an agreement between 2 parties that blesses both sides spiritually and devotionally. We see several examples of covenants like this in Scripture such as God's covenant with Noah (Gen. 9), Abraham (Gen. 12), Israel (Ex. 24), and the church (Heb. 9). We also see covenants that people have made with each other such as the covenant of marriage (Eph. 5), the covenant of business (Gen. 21), and, of course, the covenant between members of the local church (Acts 2; 1 Cor. 13; 1 Thess. 2).

The GFC Membership Covenant is intended to continue in this line of thought and includes the Covenant of GFC to its Members, the prospective member's Statement of Faith, their Statement of Biblical Doctrine, and their Covenant to GFC. Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God and is intended to be upheld as an act of worship to Him.

Covenant of Grace Fellowship Church Chilliwack 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; Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; Titus 3:10-11).
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12).

Member's 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 acknowledge that salvation is all of grace and not of myself, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast (John 1:17; Eph. 2:8-9).
- 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).

Member's Statement of Biblical Doctrine

- I either agree with, or have no fundamental objections to, the core teachings of GFC, as expressed in the GFC document, *What We Teach*.
- I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace. I will adhere to GFC's position on the Statement of Faith, the Gospel, and other matters communicated to me by GFC's church leadership as primary theological issues (e.g., the Trinity, the Deity of Christ, etc.), and I will not be divisive or quarrelsome over secondary issues (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17; 2 Tim. 2:24).
- I agree that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters regarding faith and practice (Isa. 55:11; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:15-16; Heb. 4:12).

My Covenant to Grace Fellowship Church Chilliwack as a Member

- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the authority for my life and the final arbiter on all issues relating to life and godliness (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:2-3).
- I will diligently strive to 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 consistent participation in 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 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 will faithfully 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, and service to GFC that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary, and participation in GFC fellowship as well as our broader local community that seeks to utilize the spiritual gifts the Lord has given me (Rom. 12:1-8; 2 Cor. 8-9, 12:7-31; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; Heb. 13:15-16).
- I covenant to proclaim the Gospel boldly as the Lord provides me with opportunities to do so, with the prayer of making disciples of all the nations, that unbelievers would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Tim. 2:4).
- I covenant to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ by seeking to gently restore those caught in sin, by going to someone who has offended me in person to seek reconciliation, by including one or two others if no repentance is evident, and if no repentance is evident after these previous steps are taken, by bringing the matter to church leadership for determination of whether to bring the matter before the church. I also covenant to be held accountable by my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise. (Psalm 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; Gal. 6:1-5, 8; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9, 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11).
- I have read and understood the GFC *What We Teach* document and will not be divisive to its teaching (i.e., I will not teach or proclaim positions in opposition to or contradiction of the *What We Teach* document). And I agree with the *Bylaws of Grace Fellowship Church Chilliwack* and do consent to abide by them. 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 have listed any areas of disagreement with the *What We Teach* document in my membership application, and during my time here, I agree to humbly and prayerfully listen to and consider the core teachings of GFC, particularly in these areas of disagreement.

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. (1 Peter 4:8-10)

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Grace Fellowship Church Chilliwack and is an acknowledgement of my willing involvement in the life of this congregation. I accept the responsibility to notify Grace Fellowship Church Chilliwack's leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Grace Fellowship Church Chilliwack.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Marital Status (Name of Spouse): _____

Children Living at Home: _____

Please check box if you would like your name, name of family members, and contact info included in the church directory. Also, please include birth dates if you would like.

Personal Testimony

1. Please provide your personal testimony on this page and use the back if necessary. (For example, describe how you were saved, as well as your life before and after salvation).

2. Are you currently a member of another church? (If so, do we have your permission to contact them? Please provide contact details).

3. Were you ever the subject of, or are you currently under church discipline?

4. Please describe your reasons for leaving your previous church.

5. Please list any areas of disagreement that you have with the GFC *What We Teach* document.

6. How would you share the Gospel with someone? Please include verses from Scripture.

7. Why do you want to join Grace Fellowship Church Chilliwack?

8. Any other questions or comments?

Thank you for your interest in joining Grace Fellowship Church Chilliwack. Please return this form to Jordan Henderson (admin@gracefellowshipchilliwack.com). If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at info@gracefellowshipchilliwack.com. All information collected on this form will be used in accordance with the privacy policy of Grace Fellowship Church Chilliwack.