



Member Covenant For _____

Introduction

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 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 us to do (Eph. 2:10; 4:12). Living Stone Church holds its members in high regard. We expect them to serve as ministers/ambassadors of the gospel to our community because God, in His sovereignty, placed us in this city, among these people, at this time, for this reason (Acts 17:26-27). Our mission is not limited to the local community but includes a global perspective (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

Being a member of Living Stone Church is about being part of the Body of Christ. 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 an agreement with their local church are called to a higher degree of accountability, responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and deacons commit to serve members first and foremost, to love and lead, provide counsel and aid, pray for, teach and guide them.

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace..." (1 Peter 4:8-10 ESV)

What is the covenant?

It 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 (Ezek. 20:44; 36:22; Ps. 76:11; Hos. 2:19-20; 3:1; II Tim. 2:13). Living Stone Church's member covenant includes a statement of personal faith, a statement of biblical doctrine, the obligations of Living Stone Church to its members, and the obligations of members to Living Stone Church. Though the covenant defines 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 Personal Faith

- I am a Christian saved from the eternal wrath of God by faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through His sinless life, death and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life (John 3:16-18; Rom. 3:23-26).
- I believe Jesus Christ is exactly who He claimed to be (Isa. 53:6; Matt. 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:70; John 4:25-26; 6:29; 8:58; 11:25-27; 14:6-7, 15:5).
- I have repented of my sins and in Christ, God has made me a new creation (I John 1:9; II Cor. 5:17).
- Following Christ's example and in obedience to Scripture, I have been baptized to personally identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (Col. 2:12; I Peter 3:21).

Statement of Biblical Doctrine

- I agree with Living Stone Church's Statement of Faith, which is founded upon biblical doctrine.
- I will be diligent to preserve unity and peace and understand the importance of submission to church leadership; I will adhere to Living Stone Church's position on primary theological issues; I will not be divisive over secondary issues but will be gracious toward others (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17). This is reinforced in the preamble of the Statement of Faith by Augustine of Hippo, "In essentials, unity; in doubtful matters, liberty; in all things, charity."
- I agree that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters (Is. 55:11; I Cor. 15:3-4; II Tim. 3:15-18; Heb. 4:12).
- I understand that Living Stone Church's doctrine is also communicated and specified through various channels such as sermons, teaching, published materials and other writings distributed by Living Stone Church.

Obligation of Living Stone Church's Leadership to Its Members

- We commit 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).
- We commit that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (I Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4).
- We commit to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit through praying and practicing spiritual disciplines. (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-5).
- We commit 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, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).
- We commit to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6; I Tim. 5:17-18)
- We commit to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
- We commit to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5:1-5; Gal. 6:1).

My Obligation to Living Stone Church as a Member

- I have read and understand the LSC doctrinal statement (Statement of Faith).
- I agree to submit to Scripture as the final authority on all issues (Ps. 119:2; II 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. This growing relationship will be expressed through my participation in weekly worship services, communion, and a life that desires to glorify Jesus (Ps. 105:1-2, 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; II Peter 1:3).
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, energy, and treasure (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16, 5:15-18). This includes service and regular financial giving (tithe and offerings) that is voluntary, generous, sacrificial, cheerful and rooted in God's grace to me in Christ. Our giving to God is a response to what He has already given us! (Rom. 12:1-8; II Cor. 8:9, 12:7-31; I Peter 4:10-11)
- I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church (Heb. 13:17).
- 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 that I could live a new life (II Cor. 5:17)

- I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and sexual immorality (Job 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12-14; I Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4); I will refrain from being under the control of any substance or sinful behavior that would impugn God's glory as the Bible, the elders and my conscience dictate (I Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7). Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to God and to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; I John 1:6-10).
- I have read the constitution of Living Stone Church, agree with Article VI – CHURCH DISCIPLINE and will submit to discipline by God through His Holy Spirit by following biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ. I agree 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 arises (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:1-5; II Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5, 8; I Tim. 5:20; II Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9, 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25). I invite this sort of loving care and oversight into my life by Living Stone Church or its elders and officers if they should find it necessary to take church disciplinary action against me.

My Commitment to the Mission of Living Stone Church

Living Stone Church Mission Statement:

Equipping believers in Christ to reach the lost of the world.

I have read the Mission Statement of Living Stone Church and commit to live out this mission as a diligent, faithful disciple of Jesus. I believe that my identity is in Him, my worship is for Him, my fellowship is through Him, and my interaction with the community is for His glory.

I understand that this agreement is with the members of Living Stone Church and is an acknowledgement of my submission to scriptural authority and the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify Living Stone Church if at any time I can no longer commit to this agreement, or if I have any questions, comments or concerns regarding this agreement or Living Stone Church. If I ever move from this place, I will endeavor to seek out a like-minded church where I can carry out the spirit of this agreement and live as an active member of the local church.

Signed _____

Date _____

Name (printed) _____