



**Leroy Community Chapel  
Membership Application & Covenant**



Dear LCC Regular Attender,

Thank you for desiring ongoing spiritual growth in your life. It is evident by your interest in church membership that you want all that the local church has to offer and was designed by God to be for each of us. We are eager to walk through this process with you for the further growth of your soul and the future growth of the church. Thank you!

This membership packet includes an application with several short answer questions for you to answer, as well as a few documents we believe are essential for sustaining a Gospel culture at Leroy Chapel. We believe in the importance of each member pursuing discipleship, loving one another, and using their gifts for the building of the Kingdom of God. We take your desire for church membership seriously as we commit our shepherding care to you. It also brings us and the existing body of membership great joy to have more brothers and sisters in covenant community with us. Please prayerfully work through the questions and consider carefully each document as you take this step to help Leroy Chapel be the church God designed it to be.

Upon completion of the *Core Classes* we invite you to complete this membership application. Once you return the completed application to the church office an elder will be contacting you to introduce himself and follow up with any questions regarding your application. After elder affirmation of your application, we look forward to welcoming you into church membership at our next congregational meeting. If you have questions along the way, please feel free to reach out to us as we would be happy to meet with you to discuss any concerns you have. We are praying for you as you walk by faith in your worship of the glorious God who rescued you and loves you!

By Grace,  
*The LCC Elder Team*



## Membership Application & Covenant

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe how you came to Leroy Chapel and your spiritual progress since you began to attend:

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2. Why do you desire to covenant with the family of Leroy Chapel in membership?

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3. Have you trusted the work of Christ on your behalf and by faith embraced God's grace poured out for you in salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

4. In your own words, describe what you have come to believe about the message of the Gospel (per the five chapters outlined in the *Gospel Class*):

*God:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Man:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Jesus:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Respond:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Glory:* \_\_\_\_\_

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• *Relationships with others:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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• *Mission in the world:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. In what areas do you see your gifts being used in the life and ministry of Leroy Chapel?

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\_\_\_\_\_

10. Will you commit to praying daily for the unity, health, and vision of Leroy Chapel? \_\_\_\_\_

• The elders welcome as many who have trusted Christ as Savior and call Leroy Chapel home to join with us in membership for the sake of the mission of the Gospel inside and outside Leroy Chapel. We believe there are several essential features in creating a culture full of grace and truth at LCC. It involves every member fully functioning in the local church by covenanting together in how we do mission to the glory of God. Our prayer is that with great joy in our relationship with God, and honest and healthy relationships with one another, we will see the Gospel flourish in and through us to bless the community and world. To that end, we invite you to covenant with the family of LCC in creating a God-honoring local church as described through the following documents. Please indicate that you will joyfully covenant with this church family to that which is described in:

- What We Believe*
- Body-Life Principles*
- Commitment to Peacemaking*
- Membership Commitments*
- Purpose and Plan for Church Discipline*
- I commit to regular attendance at the two congregational meetings each year

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## What We Believe

1. We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is verbally inspired (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21) and the only infallible, authoritative Word of God (Luke 24:25-27; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).
2. We believe that there is only one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14). God the Father is the creator of all things (Genesis 1:1) and is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption (Romans 11:36). Jesus Christ possesses all the divine attributes and is coequal and coeternal with the Father (John 10:30; 14:9). At the incarnation Christ surrendered the free use of those divine attributes, but never surrendered His deity, so that He might accept the characteristics of humanity and become the only God-Man (Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 2:9). The Holy Spirit is a divine person, eternally possessing all the attributes of personality and deity (1 Corinthians 2:10-13). He executes the will of the Father in relation to mankind. He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing believers into the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). He indwells, sanctifies, instructs, and empowers the saints for service, sealing them unto the day of final redemption (Romans 8:9; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13).
3. We believe that man was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). That man rejected God and as a result of this rebellion, referred to as The Fall (Genesis 3), was separated from God, and was placed under the condemnation of death (Romans 3:23; 6:23). The entire human race shares in man's lost condition (Romans 3:9-10; 5:19).
4. We believe that Jesus Christ is the promised Son of God (Hebrews 1:1-3), the fullness of God in human form (Colossians 1:19). As eternal God, He was the Word of God (John 1:1-2). He was born of the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:23), lived a sinless life (Hebrews 4:15), was crucified as a sacrificial substitute for our sin (Hebrews 10:11-14), conquered death by raising from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-4), ascended to the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:3), and will personally return in power and glory to judge the living and the dead (1 Peter 4:5), and to establish his Kingdom (Revelation 12:10).
5. We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 2:8-10; Ephesians 1:18; 1 Peter 1:18-19). Through Christ, the sinner is justified before God whereby He declares the guilty sinner not guilty (Romans 8:33). Through the substitution of Christ, man's sin is imputed to Christ and Christ's righteousness is imputed to man (2 Corinthians 5:21). God's wrath is satisfied as His grace is lavished through forgiving sin. Every believer is sanctified unto God through justification and declared holy unto Him instantly (Acts 20:32; Hebrews 2:11). All the redeemed are eternally kept by God and secure in Christ forever (John 5:24, 6:37-40; Romans 5:9-10, 8:1).
6. We believe that Jesus Christ will return to bring all things to judgment (John 14:3; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10), to set up His kingdom (Revelation 12:10), to bring this age to a close, and to initiate the new heavens and earth (2 Peter 3:10-13). We believe every person will be resurrected from the dead; the believers to an eternal life of blessedness and joy (1 Corinthians 15:51-52), unbelievers to everlasting punishment, and Satan forever put down in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:7-15).

7. We believe that the Church is commissioned by Christ to “preach the gospel to every creature” and to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19-20). Having received the gospel, every member is an ambassador of the gospel to their world (2 Corinthians 5:17-20). The mission of the local church is to disciple its members to be able to pass on the truth to others as they share the gospel in all they do (Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:1-2).

8. To commemorate the work of salvation, we celebrate two ordinances of the faith. (1) Baptism, as a symbol of our cleansing and our new identity as Christians by entering into the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:1-5); and (2) The Lord’s Supper, as a symbol of our commitment to the work of redemption – secured through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:17-32).

## Body-Life Principles

### 1. I will begin with my own heart first

- *What is the idol in your heart?*
- *What is the Spirit of God directing you to change?*
- *What Biblical action do you need to take to get the log out of your eye?*
- *What is your responsibility in the situation?*
- *Have you repented, owned what you need to own, and sought forgiveness?*

### 2. I will give grace

- *What assumptions are you making right now?*
- *What questions do you need to ask in seeking to understand?*
- *Do you believe the best about that person?*
- *Are your thoughts toward that person to build them up and not tear them down?*
- *Are you willing to be wronged to demonstrate the love of Christ toward them?*

### 3. I will offer unconditional love

- *Do you truly understand and experience the love of God toward you?*
- *Do you know how great a debt God has forgiven you?*
- *Are you only showing love to the people you like and whom like you?*
- *Do you love that person enough to speak the truth to them?*
- *Do you love someone deeply enough right now that it hurts a little bit?*

### 4. I will use my words for good

- *Are you talking to the right people about the right things?*
- *Are you being a gossip or a Godly encourager?*
- *Have you prayed earnestly for that person's best?*
- *Are you seeking to encourage someone today?*
- *Are there undealt with issues in your heart that you are unwilling to talk about?*

### 5. I will trust the work of God in people

- *Do you understand that God made us all, and we are more alike than different?*
- *Can you celebrate diversity and not demand conformity?*
- *Does someone doing things different than you bother you?*
- *Do you make people perform for your love?*
- *Are you open to learning from someone different than you?*

## Commitment to Peacemaking

Our church is committed to building a “culture of peace” that reflects God’s peace and the power of the gospel of Christ in our lives. As we stand in the light of the cross, we realize that bitterness, unforgiveness and broken relationships are not appropriate for the people whom God has reconciled to himself through the sacrifice of his only Son (John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:29-32; Col. 3:12-14).

Therefore, we look to the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit for guidance on how we can respond to conflict in a way that will honor God, promote justice, reconcile relationships, and preserve our witness for Christ. As God gives us his wisdom and grace, we are committed to actively teaching and encouraging one another to live out the following principles of peacemaking and reconciliation:

### *Personal Peacemaking:*

- Whenever we are faced with conflict, our primary goal will be to glorify God with our thoughts, words and actions (1 Cor. 10:31).
- We will try to get the “logs” out of our own eyes before focusing on what others may have done wrong (Matt. 7:3-5).
- We will seek to overlook minor offenses (Prov. 19:11).
- We will refrain from all gossip, backbiting and slander (Eph. 4:29-32). If we have a problem with others, we will talk to them, not about them.
- We will make “charitable judgments” toward one another by believing the best about each other until we have facts that prove otherwise (1 Cor. 13:7).
- If an offense is too serious to overlook, or if we think someone may have something against us, we will go promptly to seek reconciliation (Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15).
- When we offer a word of correction to others, we will do so graciously and gently, with the goal of serving and restoring them, rather than beating them down (Prov. 12:18; Eph. 4:29; Gal. 6:1).
- When someone tries to correct us, we will ask God to help us resist prideful defensiveness and to welcome correction with humility (Ps. 141:5; Prov. 15:32).
- When others repent, we will ask God to give us grace to forgive them as he has forgiven us (Eph. 4:32).
- When we discuss or negotiate substantive issues, we will look out for others’ interests as well as our own (Phil. 2:3-4).



*Assisted Peacemaking:*

- When two of us cannot resolve a conflict privately, we will seek the mediation of wise people in our church and listen humbly to their counsel (Matt. 18:16; Phil. 4:2-3). If our dispute is with a church leader, we will look to other leaders for assistance.
- When informal mediation does not resolve a dispute, we will seek formal assistance from our church leaders or people they appoint, and we will submit to their counsel and correction (Matt. 18:17-20).
- When we have a business or legal dispute with another Christian, we will make every reasonable effort to resolve the conflict within the body of Christ through biblical mediation or arbitration, rather than going to civil court (1 Cor. 6:1-8). If the other party attends another church, our leaders will offer to cooperate with the leaders of that church to resolve the matter.
- If a person coming to our church has an unresolved conflict with someone in his former church, we will require and assist him to make every reasonable effort to be reconciled to the other person before joining our church (Matt. 5:23-24; Rom. 12:18).
- When a conflict involves matters of doctrine or church discipline, we will submit to the procedures set forth by the elders.

*[From Relational Commitments by Peacemaker Ministries: Edition 1.0 pg. 9-10]*

## Membership Commitments

Having trusted Christ as my Lord and Savior, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Leroy Community Chapel church family in the mission of Christ. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

### 1. I will protect the unity of my church

- . . . by acting in love toward other members
- . . . by refusing to gossip
- . . . by following the leaders

- *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart” (1 Peter 1:22)*
- *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen” (Eph. 4:29).*
- *“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you” (Heb. 13:17)*

### 2. I will share the responsibility of my church

- . . . by praying for its growth
- . . . by inviting the un-churched to attend
- . . . by warmly welcoming those who visit

- *“To the church -- We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers” (1 Thes. 1:1-2).*
- *“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in’” (Luke 14:23).*
- *“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God” (Rom. 15:7).*

### 3. I will serve the ministry of my church

- . . . by discovering my gifts and talents
- . . . by being equipped to serve by my pastors
- . . . by developing a servant’s heart

- *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10).*
- *“[God] gave some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Eph. 4:11-12).*
- *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant” (Phil. 2:3-7).*

### 4. I will support the testimony of my church

- . . . by attending faithfully
- . . . by living a godly life
- . . . by giving regularly

- *“Let us not give up meeting together but let us encourage one another” (Heb. 10:25).*
- *“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Phil. 1:27).*
- *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income” (1 Cor. 16:2).*

## Purpose & Plan for Church Discipline

To maintain the health of the church, and the vibrancy of the testimony of Christ through the church, Christ gave instruction in the New Testament for restoring erring believers to a place of forgiveness and fellowship. This process is often referred to as Church Discipline.

### Is church discipline a biblical concept?

- Yes, and it is demonstrated and defined in these passages:

<i>Mt. 18:15-20</i>	<i>Acts 5:1-11</i>	<i>1 Cor. 5:1-13</i>
<i>2 Cor. 2:5-11</i>	<i>Gal. 6:1</i>	<i>2 Thes. 3:6-15</i>
<i>1 Tim. 5:19-20</i>	<i>Titus 3:10</i>	<i>Rom. 16:17</i>

### What are the purposes of church discipline?

1. The restoration of the offending believer (*Gal. 6:1; Mt. 18:15; 2 Thes. 3:14*)
2. The purity of the Body and the testimony of Christ (*2 Thes. 3:6; 1 Cor. 15:33*)
3. The instruction of the Body (*Acts 5:1-11; 1 Tim. 5:20*)

### Who are the subjects of church discipline?

- Those claiming to be believers in Jesus Christ (*Mt. 18:15; 1 Cor. 5:11*) who are living immoral and/or unruly lives (*1 Cor. 5:9,11; 2 Thes. 3:6*) including sinning elders (*1 Tim. 5:20*), heretics (*Titus 3:10*) and divisive teachers (*Rom. 16:17*).

### What offenses demand church discipline?

- All believers are called upon to acknowledge sin, repent, and seek forgiveness from Christ. In the church setting, those sins which are public and bring shame to the individual and the body of Christ must be dealt with.

-- *There are 4 major categories:*

Violations of:

1. Christian Love (*Mt. 5:23,24*)
2. Christian Unity (*e.g., Titus 3:10; Rom. 16:17*)
3. Christian Law and Morality (*e.g., 1 Cor. 5:1,11*)
4. Christian Truth (*e.g., 1 Tim. 6:3-6; Titus 3:10; 2 Jn 7-11*)

- Church discipline is not a vehicle for nit-picking! It is the response of genuine love to the brother or sister who, through habitual sin, evidences that they may indeed have a heart that is hardened, a conscience that is defiled, and a mind that is becoming more and more compromised by sin. This person is in serious trouble, and needs to be rescued by the loving family of the church.

## How does church discipline happen?

- If a brother or sister is found to be involved with a certain habitual sin:

**Step 1:** Private reproof: [Matthew 18:15] The one who knows confronts the one in error; *no one else need know of the problem*. If the sinning brother or sister repents, the process is over having reached its intended goal of restoration.

**Step 2:** Private Conference: [Matthew 18:16] Two or more concerned brethren confront one in error, pleading with him/her to repent before the Lord.

**Step 3:** Public Announcement: [Matthew 18:17] The church membership is made aware of the problem and instructed to pray and confront the sinning member, pleading with him/her to repent and return to the Lord.

**Step 4:** Public Exclusion: [Matthew 18:17] The church is instructed to separate from the unrepentant one (1 Cor. 5:11). This means the sinning person is no longer welcome at the Lord's Supper, or in any situation where the fellowship of the saints is to be enjoyed. The purpose of this step is to show the erring one what it is like to live outside of the circle of God's blessing. The relationship of the church to this unrepentant individual now is reduced to one dimension: a call to repentance and restoration to the Lord.

- At whatever time such repentance and restoration to the Lord occurs, the person is immediately welcomed back to the church.
- As a member of Leroy Community Chapel, you will be placing yourself under the care and protection of the church. This includes church discipline should this ever become necessary to safeguard your spiritual health and well-being.