



Madison

**MEMBERSHIP
COVENANT**

CONNECT | SERVE | GROW

2017 MADISON MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

CORE VALUES

Madison Baptist's purpose is to help people find and follow Jesus for the glory of God. This purpose shall be pursued within the framework of our CORE VALUES which include:

- **FOUND PEOPLE FOLLOW JESUS**
There should be evidence of spiritual growth in each believer's life. Although these changes may happen at a different pace for each person there should be some progress and outward evidences of what has taken place on the inside. The Bible calls these evidences "fruit of the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22-23). MBC will encourage believers to deeper and deeper levels of commitment to Jesus Christ.
- **FOUND PEOPLE FIND PEOPLE**
MBC shall be a church focused on reaching the lost (Luke 19:10). That means our people will understand that once they are "found" it is imperative that they share the good news and "find" others who do not know Jesus or who have wandered away from their faith. It is clear in Scripture that the making of disciples (Matt. 28:19) is paramount and that means first FINDING them and then helping them to FOLLOW Jesus. Therefore, a true disciple of Christ will be involved in the process of making other disciples = helping people find and follow Jesus.
- **SAVED PEOPLE SERVE PEOPLE**
MBC people realize "It's not about us." We believe every believer should be serving somewhere. We will help each person find and utilize their God-given gifts (Romans 12:4-8; 1Cor. 12:11-26; Eph. 4:11-13) to serve each other, the community and the world. We will strive to help each other discover where we are available, gifted, and called to do ministry. We believe that every member is a minister! We love our community and will do all we can to make a difference in our community and beyond (Acts 1:8).
- **YOU CAN'T OUTGIVE GOD**
We will encourage believers to trust God with their finances and to be generous givers remembering that God gave first and He will certainly take care of all our needs as we trust Him with our giving. Paul instructed the churches to give regularly, sacrificially, and cheerfully to the work of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 9) We will not be legalistic in our pursuit of generosity but we will hold the biblical principle of giving a tithe (10%) as our goal (a good starting point) with a desire to be continually growing in generosity towards the mission of God.
- **YOU CAN'T DO LIFE ALONE**
The Christian life is most fully expressed within the context of relationships. (Love God & Love Others, Mark 12:30-31) Close and deep relationships with a small group of believers are essential for the Christian to be connected, cared for, and find accountability. Small groups are also the place where you can receive consistent accountability for your spiritual growth. Truly, we are better together (Ecclesiastes 4:8-12).

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

1. That the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is the divinely inspired Word of God, the final and trustworthy authority for faith and practice. It is to be interpreted responsibly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit within the community of faith. The Bible clearly reveals the essentials necessary for salvation and the basics of how to conduct our lives. It is the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. (Deuteronomy 4:1-2; II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21)
2. That there is only one true and eternal God consisting of three co-equal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; John 4:24; John 14:6-13; Galatians 4:6; 2 Peter 1:17; Psalm 2:7ff; Isaiah 7:14; John 1:1-18; Hebrews 1:8; Psalm 51:11; 1 John 4:13; Acts 5:3,4)
3. That God created humankind in the divine image. Through Adam's fall all became sinful, lost and condemned. Each human being by deliberate choice participates in sin and is in need of redemption through Christ. (Genesis 1:26-30; Ephesians 2:1-22; Romans 1:19-32, Romans 5:12-21)
4. That Jesus Christ is God's Son, fully divine and fully human, the eternal and pre-existent Word. By His death Christ made full atonement for our sins, and by his resurrection showed Himself to be the Lord and giver of life to all who believe. (Hebrews 1:1-3, 4:14-15; John 1:1-3,14)
5. That God offers forgiveness of sin and justification through faith in Christ Jesus apart from works. Such redemption is received by human individuals as God's gift upon repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ. Through Christ the believer becomes a new creation, whose mind and will are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit from loving sin, to loving the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind, and loving all people as we love ourselves. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 2:8-22; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Matthew 22:37-38)
6. That the Church is a community of faith consisting of regenerated believers with Christ as Lord. Such believers claim a personal relationship to God through Jesus Christ, are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, follow the Lord in believer's baptism, share in the Lord's Supper, gather regularly for worship, and covenant for mutual edification and care-giving. (Matthew 16:15-19; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:30-33; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Ephesians 1:22-23; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Corinthians 6:19)
7. That the Church is called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and God's reconciling grace in the power of the Holy Spirit, inviting persons to receive salvation (find) and follow Christ as His disciples. As disciples, we seek justice for all persons and the reform of society. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Galatians 3:26-28; James 1:27, 2:8)
8. That Jesus Christ will return visibly, at which time He will raise the dead and judge all people. Believers will enjoy eternal fellowship with God as they participate in the fullness of His eternal reign, while unbelievers will suffer eternal separation from God. (Matthew 24:29-31, 25:31-46; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; Revelations 20:4-6, 11-15)

DECLARATION OF HUMAN SEXUALITY AND THE CHURCH

Because we are all wounded and broken people in need of the healing power of God's grace in Christ Jesus, and being aware of the confusion of voices pertaining to human sexuality, the following statement defines our common understanding for sexual behavior:

9. MBC affirms the Biblical ethic of compassion, love and ministry to all sexually broken persons and the availability of God's grace to all that repent (Luke 5:30-32; John 8:1-11; I Corinthians 6:11).
10. We affirm God's gracious creation intent for both faithful lifelong heterosexual union for married persons and for committed celibate behavior for unmarried persons as the only Biblical options for human sexual conduct. All other sexual unions are clearly identified in Scripture as being sinful and destructive of persons (Genesis 1:27, 2:24; I Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4).
11. We affirm that all alternative sexual unions outside of heterosexual marriage including homosexual/bisexual practices, adultery, and fornication are sin. Such conduct calls for repentance and openness to the transforming power of God (Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Rom. 1:18-32; I Cor. 6:9-10).
12. Accordingly, MBC, its pastors, staff and members will not participate in same-sex unions or same-sex marriages, nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes.

MY TESTIMONY OF FAITH IN JESUS

How did you come to know Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? _____

How do you know that you are a Christian? _____

How has your relationship with Christ impacted your life? Give a few examples of how you have grown in your Christian life. _____

COVENANT REPSONSIBILITIES

With the guiding help of the Holy Spirit, I, the undersigned, covenant the following:

1. I am a Christian who has been saved from my sins by the grace of Jesus Christ. I have been baptized by immersion, or intend to be, to give testimony of my identification with the body of Christ and obedience to the Scriptures.
2. I have read the sections on Core Values, the Statement of Beliefs, and the Declaration of Human Sexuality and the Church and can affirm my agreement with the church's core values and beliefs.
3. I will seek to fulfill the mission of my church: by actively pursuing a love relationship with Christ through prayer, bible study, and fellowship; by actively seeking to help others find Christ by praying, caring, and sharing with people far from God; and by being a disciple maker to help others find and follow Jesus. (John 15; Matthew 28:18-20)
4. I will seek to be equipped for ministry and to serve in my church: by discovering my gifts and talents; by being equipped to serve; and by developing a servant's heart. (1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:11-12; Philippians 2:3-4, 7)
5. I will support the testimony of my church: by attending faithfully for worship, instruction, fellowship, and service; by living a godly life; and by giving regularly, sacrificially, and cheerfully. (Hebrews 10:25; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 1:27; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9; Leviticus 27:30)
6. I will protect the unity of my church: by acting in love toward other members; by refusing to gossip; by following the leadership of my church; and by following biblical steps of conflict resolution.(Romans 14:19; 1 Peter 1:22; Ephesians 4:29-32; Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 18:15-35)

MEMBER'S COVENANT PROMISE

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Elder Signature _____ Date _____