

Member Covenant

*“When you make a vow to the Lord, do not delay in fulfilling it.
He has no pleasure in fools. Fulfill your vow.
It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.”
-Ecclesiastes 5:4-5*

When anyone enters into relationship with God by grace and through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, they are entering into two covenants:

1. To journey with God for the rest of their lives and love Him fully.
2. To journey with His other children in the community of the local church.

Your membership in a church is an official recognition of this.

THE PURPOSE OF THE RENAISSANCE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT IS:

1. To join the Holy Spirit in forming an authentic church community that reflects the relationship between the Father, Son and Spirit.
2. To clarify the on-going blessings & responsibilities of each member.
3. To encourage consistency, accountability and loving unity within the church family.
4. To accomplish God’s call for the Renaissance church family. This agreement does not imply that you will never fall short of the goals, but that the desire of your heart is to fulfill each of the responsibilities stated to the best of your ability. We trust that your commitment will be a personal blessing to your own journey in Christ, as well as blessing to those around you.

THE FACTS OF MEMBERSHIP:

A numerical record was kept (Acts 2:37-47). Records were kept of widows (1 Timothy 5:3-16). Elections were conducted (Acts 6:1-6). Discipline was carried out (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1). Elders will be held accountable for members (Hebrews 13:17). There was an awareness of who was committed to the Church (Romans 16:1-16).

With the help of the Holy Spirit, the church leadership covenants the following:

1. We commit ourselves to lovingly care for you and seek your growth in Christ (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12).
2. We covenant to provide teaching, preaching and counsel from the Scriptures (Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
3. We commit that this teaching will span the whole counsel of God’s Word (Acts 20:27-28).
4. We commit to helping you in times of need (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35, James 2:14-17).

5. We covenant that your elders and deacons (when they are recognized) will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13 and 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4).
6. We covenant to pray for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).
7. We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
8. We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1).
9. We covenant to help you become equipped to serve Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).
10. 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 Peter 5:1-5).
11. We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church membership (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12).

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 to give testimony of my identification with the body of Christ and in obedience to the Scriptures.
2. I have read and understand Renaissance's confession of faith and have heard and understand Renaissance's By-Laws (available upon request) through membership class and agree to not be divisive to its teaching and content. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (Hebrews 13:7, 17; Ephesians 4:1-3)
3. I will endeavor to maintain a close relationship with the Lord through regular personal Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of the other spiritual disciplines. My journey in Christ will be evident through my regular participation in the corporate worship services, and involvement in a missional community. (Psalm 119:97, 105; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25).
4. I will strive to properly manage the resources God has given me, including my time, body, gifts, talents, attitudes, finances and possessions (Ephesians 5:15-18; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-16; Galatians 5:22-26; Proverbs 3:9-10). This includes regular giving to Renaissance that is sacrificial, within my means, consistent and cheerful (2 Corinthians 8-9).
5. I commit myself to the Renaissance church family and agree to aid in fulfilling its missional purpose to bring the gospel to Pittsburgh, the Nation and World. I recognize that this will be accomplished by pursuing Renaissance's core values, vision, and mission.
6. I commit to using the spiritual gift(s) God has given me for the building up of the church, both as part of Renaissance and universally (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-31).
7. I covenant to practice humility with the sacrificial attitude of Christ by considering the needs of others (Philippians 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 13:4-5), not gossiping (Proverbs 16:28, Matthew 18: 15-17), and seeking spiritual friendships (Proverbs 17:17).
8. I covenant to follow the biblical procedures of church discipline and submit myself to informal discipline as I strive to live out the gospel in community and formal discipline if the

need should ever arise (Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1-5). If I withdraw from membership while the subject of pending disciplinary action according to Matthew 18:15-17, I expressly consent and submit to the elders' continuing authority to complete the disciplinary process set forth in our church by-laws.

9. I covenant to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). God enabling me, I will strive to consider my commitment to this Membership Covenant on a yearly basis. I understand that it is an evaluative tool, as well as an affirmation of my continuing conviction and purpose. My responsibility will be to notify Renaissance's leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant. If I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Renaissance, I commit to talk to my pastors and will do everything within my power to not cause division.

Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____