

CHURCH COVENANT

GRACE CHURCH OF SUNBURY, OHIO

If some of the language in our church covenant seems dated and clunky, it's because it actually is dated and clunky. We borrowed heavily from a standard covenant used by scores of churches for more than 100 years. In part we chose this language because of its beauty and precision as seen from the Scriptures, but also to symbolize our connection to faithful Christians before us. But we also want the language to seem formal and maybe a little bit unfamiliar. Our commitment to each other isn't casual, and we don't want our covenant to read that way either. All new members affirm this covenant when they join our church and we read it to each other before every members meeting to remind ourselves of our commitment to this body. In short, this covenant defines what it means to be a member of Grace Church.

As we trust, being brought through faith and repentance by His divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the influence of His Spirit to give ourselves up to Him, so we do covenant relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully with each other, that God enabling us:

(John 1:11-12; John 16:7-11; Matt. 28:19-20)

We will walk together in brotherly love.

(Mark 12:29-31; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10; 1 John 4:11)

That we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully warn, rebuke, and admonish one another as the case shall require.

(2 Tim 2:15; 1 Cor. 5:1-2; Heb. 3:12-14)

We will extend to each other the grace shown to us in Christ Jesus, remaining slow to take offense and quick to seek reconciliation.

(Philippians 2:3-11)

That we will faithfully attend the meetings of the church and work together to sustain its worship, discipline, and doctrines.

(Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; James 5:16)

That we will participate in each other's joys, and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.

(Gal. 6:2; James 2:14-17)

That we will earnestly endeavor to raise those under our care in the knowledge and love of the Lord, and by word and loving example seek the salvation of our families and friends.

(Titus 2:1-6; Deut. 6:4-7)

That we will seek divine aid to enable us to walk circumspectly and watchfully in the world, denying ungodliness and every worldly lust.

(Eph. 5:15-21; 1 Pet. 2:11-12; 1 John 2:15-17)

That we will strive together, devoting our time and abilities for the good of the church, and we will joyfully contribute to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

(Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 15:58)

That we will endeavor by example and effort to win souls to Christ.

(Acts 1:8; Matt. 4:19; 5:12-16)

That we will, when we move from the presence of this body, that we will notify this congregation and covenant with another church faithful to the principles of God's Word.

(Acts 2:42)

And through life amidst evil report and good report seek to live to the glory of Him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(Col. 1:11-14; Gal. 1:1-5)