



SOJOURN MIDTOWN

MEMBERSHIP 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, 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 Sojourn Midtown 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 ongoing blessings and responsibilities of each partner.
- 3 **To encourage** consistency, accountability, and loving unity within the church family.
- 4 **To accomplish** God's call for the Sojourn Midtown 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

- 1 A numerical record was kept (ACTS 2:37-47).
- 2 Records were kept of widows (1 TIMOTHY 5:3-16).
- 3 Elections were conducted (ACTS 6:1-6).
- 4 Discipline was carried out (MATTHEW 18:15-20; 1 CORINTHIANS 5; GALATIANS 6:1).
- 5 Elders will be held accountable for members (HEBREWS 13:17).
- 6 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 **To lovingly care for you** and seek your growth in Christ (HEBREWS 13:17; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12).
- 2 **To provide teaching, preaching and counsel** from the Scriptures (GALATIANS 6:6; 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-18).
- 3 **That this teaching will span** the whole counsel of God's Word (ACTS 20:27-28).
- 4 **To helping you** in times of need (ACTS 2:42-47, 4:32-35, JAMES 2:14-17).
- 5 **That your elders and deacons**, when they are recognized, will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13; 5:17-22; TITUS 1:5-9, 1 PETER 5:1-4).
- 6 **To pray for you** regularly, particularly when you are sick (JAMES 5:14).

- 7 **To be on guard** against false teachers (ACTS 20:28-31).
- 8 **To exercise church discipline** when necessary (MATTHEW 18:15-20; 1 CORINTHIANS 5; GALATIANS 6:1).
- 9 **To help you** become equipped to serve Christ (EPHESIANS 4:11-13).
- 10 **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 **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, members of Sojourn Midtown 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 obedience to the Scriptures.
- 2 **I have read** and understand the Sojourn Midtown bylaws, including the doctrinal statement, 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 community group (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 and 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 Sojourn Midtown that is sacrificial and cheerful (2 CORINTHIANS 8-9).

- 5 **I commit** myself to the Sojourn Midtown church family and agree to aid in fulfilling its missional purpose to bring the gospel to the lost.
- 6 **I commit** to using the spiritual gift(s) God has given me for the building up of the church, both as part of Sojourn Midtown 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 the humility and 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 bylaws.
- 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 the Sojourn Midtown leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Sojourn Midtown.