

Membership Covenant



Our Purpose

To know Him and to make Him known

Our Mission

Love each other as Jesus has loved us

Our Focus

Include young families

The purpose of this document is to further define the standards for becoming a member of this congregation (Article 4, sec. 2c—New Life By-laws). It does so by putting forward our understanding of the purpose and character of Christian community and freely offering the opportunity to participate in that vision (community).

In this document, we covenant with each other to accomplish certain “works.” We are convinced that the works we are undertaking are not the “works of the Law” forbidden to Gentiles in the Christian Bible (NT). Rather, these are the works of faith and love commanded by Jesus and the Apostles (Matt. 5:16; Acts 26:20; Gal. 2:16; Titus 2:11-15; James 2:14-26; 1 Thes. 4:7-8; Rev. 3:1-6; 2 Pt. 3:11-14).

We welcome you to prayerfully consider covenanting with us,
The Elders & Community

“A new commandment I give you . . .

As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Our God: The Bible makes it clear that God’s number one priority is the well-being of people. His character shines so brightly that he is called light, love, and holiness. It is his light, love, and holiness that is the standard against which our own concern for others is measured (1 Jn. 1:5-2:6).

Our Hope: *The Good News is that God sent his Son Jesus to this earth to rescue us by:*

1. Showing us the Father (Jn. 1:18; 17:6, 26).
2. Cleansing our guilty consciences and reconciling us to the Father (Jn. 15:3; Heb. 10:22; Lk. 1:74-75; Rom. 5:10).
3. Enabling us, in our character and conduct, to be as concerned for others as is the Father, his true sons and daughters (Lk. 6:27-36; Eph. 4:22-24; 1 John 2:6; 5:18-19; Rom. 8:14; 1 Pt. 1:13-23).
4. Opening the way for us to be resurrected from the dead and to then reign with him on the New Earth (1 Thes. 4:13-5:11; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 5:1-10; chap. 15; Rev. 3:23; 5:10; 19-22).

Our Charge: Is first of all, to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind” (Luke 10:27). However, Jesus went a step further. In his final instructions (John 13-17), Jesus took his disciples’ thinking from their highly personal and subjective love for him (and the Father), to its practical, communal and most elementary application. He said if they loved him they would keep his commands; and then he gave them his New Command – *that they must love one another as he loved them*. He went on to link their service in this world - and their relationships to him and his Father - to their obedience to this elementary command. For example, he said:

- We will prove that we love him (Jn. 14:21-24).
- All men will know we are his (real) disciples (Jn. 13:34-35).
- The world will believe that Jesus was sent by the Father (to save the world). (Jn. 17:1-23)
- We will be "one" in the same sense that the Father and Son are one (Jn. 17:1-23).
- We will be in this world but never overcome by this world. (Jn. 16:33)
- We will bear much fruit (Jn. 15:1-17). So much fruit that,
- "religious" people will harm us thinking they are doing God a service. (Jn. 15:18-16-4, Mt. 5:11-16)
- We will be eternally safe and secure in his love (not cut off and burned) (Jn. 15:1-17).
- Jesus' joy will be in us and our joy will be complete (Jn. 15:1-17).

- The Holy Spirit will teach, guide and empower us (Jn. 14:12-27, 16:5-15).
- We will bring Glory to the Father (Jn. 15:7-8).
- We will show the world a love superior to all others. (Jn. 15:12-13)
- We have peace in Jesus even while we are experiencing trouble in and from this world. (Jn. 14:12-37)

My Covenant Agreement

In light of Jesus' New Command, and with the Holy Spirit being my helper, I pledge to do everything in my power to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. I will prove that love by loving my brothers and sisters at New Life Fellowship as Jesus loves me. I realize that to keep that pledge, every day I must take up my cross and put off the old man and put on the new man created to be like God. To that end, at a minimum I pledge myself to take the following concrete steps. I will: (Gal. 5:13-26, Eph. 4:17- 5:20, Mt. 10:37-39, 8:18-22)

- make a deliberate effort to learn more about God every day (Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 119:16).
- set aside time to communicate (talk) with God every day (Acts 2:42-47, Eph. 6:10-20).
- prioritize participation both in Lifegroup and in Celebration every week. (Acts 2:42-47, Heb. 10:19-31)
- serve the Lord and my brothers and sisters by using my spiritual gifts in active ministry, beginning with (write in area of ministry) _____ (1 Cor. 12-14; Eph. 4:1-10).
- listen to and heed the Scriptural wisdom, correction, and directions of the leaders of the fellowship and the members of my Lifegroup (Heb. 13:7-8, 13; Eph. 5:21; Ps. 141:5).
- not complain (or listen to complaints) about anyone or anything until I know the facts – especially as they concern someone's motives or intentions. (Phil. 2:14; Matt. 18:15-20;)
- investigate each situation in which I may have been wronged - keeping the twin goals of peace and reconciliation always foremost in my mind. (Matt. 18:15-20)
- cleanse myself morally (take the log out of my eye) before I attempt to help others recognize and become free from the sin in their lives. (Matt. 7:3-5; Ps. 141:5; 1 Jn. 3:1-3; Gal. 6:1-2)
- joyfully give back to God a generous portion of everything he gives to me - in support of this fellowship and its service in the community, the region, and the world. (I Tim. 5:17-18, II Tim. 2:4-7, Gal. 6:6-10)

- express my opinions or concerns keeping love for the brethren and unity of the Spirit as my goals.
- actively develop and sustain relationships that will help me and others to put to death the old man and put on the new man (Ps. 119:63).
- seek to encourage at least one believer every day (phone, visit, activity, hospitality, note, e-mail). (Heb. 3:12-13)
- support the efforts of this fellowship to share God's love with unbelievers. (Matt. 28:16-20)
- abide by the by-laws of this fellowship.

I share the vision of New Life Fellowship as expressed in this Covenant and presented in the “Discovery” seminar. I hereby pledge my wholehearted commitment to do whatever I can to make God’s purposes for this fellowship and my life a sustained reality. Should I decide to no longer abide by the terms of this covenant – I will initiate a request asking to relinquish my right to oversight and to have my membership privileges terminated

New Covenant Member

Date

To the best of our knowledge, this covenant was entered into with a sincere heart and full understanding of its content and seriousness. Therefore, we, the undersigned, pledge ourselves to support, to the point of great personal sacrifice, this brother’s/sister’s inclusion in our community.

Lifegroup Leader(s)

Date

Covenant Member(s) sign below:

Date

Interviewing Elder

Date