



## **Cityview Membership Covenant**

The Cityview Community Church Membership Covenant is birthed out of our love for the church body and its individual members, whom we hope will experience the fullness of joy which is found in the presence of the Lord. The primary purpose of this covenant is to serve as a teaching document with three functions:

- To clarify the biblical obligations and expectations for both the elders of Cityview Community Church and the individual members of the Cityview church body
- To establish teaching and doctrinal parameters for the Cityview church body
- To serve as a tool for reflection and growth toward holiness.

## **What is a covenant?**

A covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other (Psalm 76:11; Ezekiel 20:44; 36:22; Hosea 2:19-20; 3:1; 2 Timothy 2:13). Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God and as a commitment to his glory and his bride, the church (Ephesians 5:25).

## **Declaration of Faith**

### **The Word of God**

We believe the sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments are the divinely inspired, infallible Word of God, without error in the original manuscripts, and God's complete, written revelation to humankind. The Bible is sufficient and trustworthy for life, faith, conduct, and practice, and is the supreme and final authority in all matters to which it speaks. We further believe there is but one true interpretation of Scripture, although there may be several applications. The true meaning lies in the text and is that which the divinely-guided author willed to convey. It is recoverable through careful application of a literal (grammatical, historical, contextual) method of interpretation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and in the community of Christ. The Holy Spirit illumines the text, enabling the reader to embrace the significance of what God has communicated, and to see the glory of Christ in the Word of God.

### **The Trinity**

We believe in one God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, eternally divine existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; we believe that these are equal in every distinct perfection and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

### **God the Father**

We believe in God the Father: an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. We believe God's knowledge is exhaustive; that He fully knows the past, present, and future independent of human decisions and actions. The Father does everything in accordance with His perfect will, though His sovereignty neither eliminates nor minimizes our personal responsibility.

### **Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God's eternal Son. God the Son has precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe further that He

is not only true God, but true man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His priestly intercession on behalf of His people, and His personal, visible, premillennial return from heaven.

### **Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality and His work in regeneration, sanctification, and preservation. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to implement Christ's work of redeeming the lost, and to empower the believer for godly living and service. We believe the Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to believers as He wills for the common good. No gift signifies His baptism or filling, nor does any gift provide authoritative revelation beyond what has already been revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Life in the Spirit includes trials and does not guarantee physical health, material wealth, nor confirming outward signs.

### **Mankind**

We believe God originally created persons, male and female, in the image of God and free from sin. We believe all people are sinners by nature and choice and are spiritually dead. We also believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe God established marriage to be a lifelong covenant relationship between one man and one woman. Marriage so defined is the only permissible context for intimate sexual expression and is the foundation for human family. We further believe that human life is precious and should be protected from beginning, at fertilization, until death.

### **Salvation**

We believe in salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, was purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross, is eternally secured by the Holy Spirit, and is received by faith, apart from any human merit, works, or ritual. We further believe salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper social concern.

### **The Church**

We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the head. We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe that this body expresses itself in local assemblies whose members have been immersed upon a credible confession of faith and have associated themselves for worship, for instruction, for evangelism, and for service. We believe the ordinances of the local church are believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. We also believe in the interdependence of local churches and the mutual submission of believers to each other in love.

### **Separation of Church and State**

We believe that each local church is self-governing in function and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life and that each one should be free to worship God according to the dictates of conscience.

### **Christian Conduct**

We believe that the supreme task of believers is to glorify God in their life and that their conduct should be blameless before the world. We further believe that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions and that they should seek to realize for themselves the full stature of maturity in Christ.

## **The Last Things**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost, the eternal existence of all people either in heaven or hell, in divine judgment, rewards, and punishments.

## **Mission Statement**

To help people move from seeking Jesus to serving Jesus through the gospel

## **Vision Statement**

To see many in Elmhurst and the surrounding communities living undivided lives outside the walls of our church because of our commitment to gospel-centered, relational disciple-making. Those living life on mission will reach the lost boldly, connect to the church authentically, lead their families faithfully, serve the city compassionately, and engage the culture intentionally.

## **Obligations of Cityview Community Church to Its Members**

The elders of Cityview Community Church covenant...

- to prayerfully seek God's will for our church community and steward her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following of the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- to care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth and love, and to pray for the members of the church regularly, especially when sick or struggling (Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:15-16, Colossians 1:28; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; James 5:16).
- to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:1).
- to be on guard against false teachers and teachings (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1).
- to equip the members of the church for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16).
- to lovingly exercise discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20); that discipline may require contacting civil authorities regarding behavior that is not only sinful but criminal, when appropriate (Romans 13:1-5). This includes holding other elders to account who are caught in sin, such as the abuse of authority exemplified by Diotrephes (3 John 9).
- to set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated below (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3).

## **My Obligation to Cityview Community Church and Its Members**

I covenant...

- to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- to pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22).
- to participate in the life of Cityview Community Church by attending weekly services, engaging in gospel-centered community and serving those within and outside of this church, and by participating in the ordinances as prescribed to his church (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Titus 3:14):
  - by being baptized after my conversion

- by regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion.
- to steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances. This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9).
- to endeavor to bring up any who are under my care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek salvation of our family and friends, and ultimately of all nations (Psalm 78:4-7; Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).
- to walk in holiness, by God's grace, as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin so that I can live a new life. I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication. I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, my pastors, and my conscience dictate. Should I sin in such a manner I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (1 Corinthians 5:17; Job 31:1; Proverbs 5; Romans 13:12-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-7:16; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 8:7; Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10).
- to submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11):
  - following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another – the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration
  - receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers.
- to strive diligently for unity and peace within the church by not talking negatively about one another, not passing judgment on one another, not putting any stumbling block in one another's way (Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 14:13); and by submitting to the elders of the church (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5). However, submission to church leadership does *not* imply overlooking the sin of elders (including the abuse of power), which must be brought to the attention of the church in godly ways for the good of the sinner and the health of the church (1 Timothy 5:19-20).
- to do the following should I leave the church for righteous reasons:
  - to notify a pastor or elder
  - to seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.

I have read and affirm the Declaration of Faith.

I have read the Mission and Vision of Cityview Community Church and commit to live out these statements as a diligent, faithful disciple of Jesus, that my identity would be in him, my worship would be for him, my fellowship would be through him, and my interaction with the culture would be for his glory.

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Cityview Community Church and is an acknowledgment of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify Cityview leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Cityview Community Church.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_