



CROSS FELLOWSHIP CHURCH COVENANT

A church covenant is our attempt to articulate what we believe the Bible to teach regarding how members of a local church body are to live together. By clarifying and spelling out these Scriptural commitments and obligations to one another, our hope is that membership at Cross Fellowship Church be meaningful. Nowhere does this covenant contain extra traditions or legalistic rules found outside the Bible in which we are imposing on members. Instead, we pray this covenant is a genuine reflection of what Scripture teaches regarding the commitments members of a local church are to have for one another.

We have separated our church covenant into two major categories: 1) The Biblical obligations of Cross Fellowship Church elders to the Cross Fellowship Church body and 2) The Biblical obligations of Cross Fellowship members to one another.

Biblical Obligations of Cross Fellowship Church Elders to the Cross Fellowship Church Body

As overseers of a local church, elders are men entrusted with teaching, protecting, caring for and leading the corporate church body and her individual members. The following is an explanation for how the elders at Cross Fellowship Church will strive to fulfill these responsibilities toward our members.

The Cross Fellowship Church elders will strive...

- To faithfully teach the members of Cross Fellowship Church by...
 - Diligently studying and teaching from the whole Scripture.¹
 - Equipping members for the work of ministry.²
- To faithfully protect the members of Cross Fellowship Church by...
 - Being on guard against and refuting false teachers and teachings.³
 - Discerning as carefully as possible that those admitted to membership in the church are true believers.⁴
 - Lovingly overseeing the exercise of church discipline when necessary for the glory of God, the restoration of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole.⁵
- To faithfully care for the members of Cross Fellowship Church by...
 - Compassionately ensuring that members facing trials and difficulties and facing physical and temporal needs are sufficiently cared for.⁶
 - Persistently praying for each member.⁷
- To faithfully lead the members of Cross Fellowship Church by...
 - Setting an example and joining members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated in the church covenant.⁸

¹ Acts 20:27-28; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 3:2, 5:17; Titus 1:9; Hebrews 13:7

² Ephesians 4:11-16

³ Acts 15:6, 20:28-31; Titus 1:9

⁴ Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:1, 4:5-6; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; 1 Peter 2:9

⁵ Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1-5

⁶ Acts 11:29-30, 20:35; Hebrews 13:7; James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 5:1-2

⁷ James 5:14-16

⁸ Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:2-7; Hebrews 13:7; 1 Peter 5:3

- Prayerfully seeking God's will for our church community and stewarding her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following the Spirit.⁹
- Appointing elders and deacons, alongside the aid of members, according to the criteria assigned to them in Scripture.¹⁰
- Joyfully overseeing the growth of members as disciples of Christ and giving an account for their growth in loving God supremely, one another humbly and the world sacrificially.¹¹

Biblical Obligations of Cross Fellowship Church Members to One Another

As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we have been placed into a new corporate body known as the church. As members together of Cross Fellowship Church Scripture details the specific commitments we are to have toward one another. In summary, we understand these mutual obligations to be as follows:

Having been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ¹² and to surrender our lives to Him,¹³ and having been baptized as Christians in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,¹⁴ and in response to the glorious gospel, we covenant together as one body in Christ by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit...

- To Love God Supremely by...
 - Gathering regularly to worship God and exalt Christ through corporate singing, biblical teaching and partaking of the Lord's Supper.¹⁵
 - Devoting ourselves to consistently reading and studying God's Word, growing in our understanding and application of the gospel and submitting our lives to the authority of God's Word.¹⁶
 - Pursuing holiness and making every effort to live in purity in our words, thoughts and deeds.¹⁷
 - Expressing our utter dependence upon God through persistent prayer.¹⁸
- To Love One Another Humbly by...
 - Selflessly accepting one another and graciously yielding our personal preferences for the sake of maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.¹⁹
 - Sharing each other's joys, bearing each other's burdens and compassionately caring for those who are in need among us.²⁰
 - Edifying and spurring one another on toward love and good deeds through the use of our speech, example and spiritual gifts for the sake of the building up of the body of Christ.²¹
 - Gently confronting one another and receiving correction from one another in accordance with a New Testament understanding of church discipline and restoration.²²
 - Having friendly Christian relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ from other churches, but not functioning in leadership or as a member in another church family.²³

⁹ Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4

¹⁰ 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4

¹¹ Matthew 28:16-20; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4

¹² John 6:44; Acts 3:19, 16:31, 17:30, 20:21; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10

¹³ Luke 14:25-33

¹⁴ Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41; Romans 6:1-4

¹⁵ Luke 22:7-23; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:1, 4:2, 13; Titus 2:13; Rev. 19:16

¹⁶ Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁷ Romans 13:11-14; Ephesians 4:17-19; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:5-9; 1 John 2:15-17

¹⁸ Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-13; Acts 2:42; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

¹⁹ Romans 12, 15:7; 1 Corinthians 12:26; Ephesians 4:1-6, 25-32; Philippians 2:3-4; Colossians 3:5-17; Hebrews 3:12-14, 10:24-25

²⁰ 1 Corinthians 12:26

²¹ Ephesians 4:29; Philippians 3:17; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 4:10-11

²² Matthew 18:12-20; Romans 14:14-23; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1-5; Ephesians 4:17-5:21; 1 Peter 2:9

²³ Hebrews 13:17

- Gladly cooperating with, submitting to, and prayerfully supporting the leadership of the elders who have been entrusted by God to teach, protect, care for and lead this body.²⁴
- To Love the World Sacrificially by...
 - Making disciples of all nations through gospel proclamation, baptism and the teaching of the Scriptures.²⁵
 - Cheerfully, regularly, and generously giving our time, abilities, resources, and money, to support the ministries of the church, the relief of urgent physical needs, and the spread of the gospel both in our city and all nations.²⁶

We affirm this covenant with one another by God's grace, for our good, and ultimately for God's glory. If at any time we can no longer commit to this covenant we will notify the elders immediately. If we move from this local body, we will as soon as possible unite with another local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

²⁴ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:17-25; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:5

²⁵ Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 5:9-10, 7:9-10

²⁶ Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 10:25-37; 2 Corinthians 8-9; James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:16-17