



## Membership Covenant – Church’s Copy

### **Purpose**

When we come to Christ by faith, we enter into two covenants, or promises. The first is the covenant relationship with God, where we journey with Him in relationship for the rest of our lives. The other covenant we enter into is with the faithful community of God’s people. In this covenant, God places us in relationship with one another. As such, Scripture requires us to have servanthood, birthed out of godly love, as our primary activity toward one another. Membership is not about signing on a dotted line of beliefs, but rather joining a family that is seeking to share Christ with the world and with each other. The Imago Dei Membership Covenant is a stated commitment that we are living in community together and seeking to embody the values of our church in **active** expressions of love and service.

Many times membership in covenant community is seen as limiting rather than unleashing. It is often seen as exclusive rather than inclusive, and hindering Biblical love and service rather than assisting it. We see active membership as just the opposite. It is a way of creating more room to include people, it provides more stability to help people grow in their faith and service, and it creates a solidifying relationship that allows us to authentically journey together in Christ. It stretches us to be a diverse community, and to love those who are not like us. It provides the leadership accountability to the people that they serve and it provides accountability to the people toward God. It also destroys the American idol of the autonomous self, practicing an individualized private faith, which we see as highly contrary to the New Testament community.

Through the power of the Spirit, we enter into relationship with our church community. The relationship is reciprocal in that the leadership of the church covenants with you, and you covenant with them. This is the pattern we see in the book of Acts, servant leadership that empowered the people for a life of witness and spiritual fruit to the glory of God. Thus, in our covenant at Imago Dei, we make mutual commitments to one another.

### **The Elders’ Commitment**

The Elders of Imago Dei Community recognize that they have final responsibility before God for the whole flock. This responsibility includes prayer ministry, ministry of the Word (including teaching and guarding the church’s doctrine), the administration of the church and shepherding the flock. With a commitment to Word, Sacrament (the Lord’s Table and baptism), Prayer and Fellowship, the Elders fulfill their duties within the covenant community of believers.

### **The Member’s Covenant**

The member’s covenant involves a recognition and commitment to Imago Dei Community. As a member, you are proclaiming that you have been saved from your sins through Christ’s work on the cross and that you either have been, or are willing to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You have read the doctrinal statement and position papers of Imago Dei and

agree to not be divisive to their teaching; rather, you will seek to preserve the unity and peace of our community, worshiping God in all you do, growing in the truth of God's word, and actively pursuing a life that reflects the Gospel to our world.

This relational covenant will also have bearing upon our finances. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are family. Family members take care of and provide for one another (James 2:15-17). Moreover, we all must strive to give in a way that mimics the generosity and self-sacrifice that God Himself demonstrates in His own great gift of grace through His son (2 Corinthians 9:5-15). As a matter of faithfulness to these principles, we expect our members to be actively engaged in sacrificial giving of time and resources for the needs of the body of Christ (Phil 4:14-19). Regardless of the amount given, the importance lies in the fact that all giving should be done generously, sacrificially, and with joy. We will all strive to live in such a way that demonstrates that every area of our lives is submitted to the Lordship of Jesus. This will be evident in how we use our time, resources, and gifts.

The most significant part of the member's covenant is how we live as a family with one another. This commitment is to enter into spiritual community with one another and seek to love and serve your brothers and sisters in Christ. You are saying that you will build one another up in the Lord, refraining from gossip, and encouraging others away from it, as well. Above all, you are committing to love God and bring glory to Him above all else.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Birthdates of Family Members \_\_\_\_\_

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