

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

FIRST BAPTIST CARMI

Having been personally led by the Spirit of God to repent of our sins and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and, having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we most earnestly and joyfully enter into covenant with this congregation at First Baptist Carmi as one body in Christ.



OUR MISSION

By the power of the Holy Spirit in us and the grace that God gives, we vow to do our best to pursue the mission of this congregation by...

Reaching Out: "Reaching out" means that we will joyfully serve others by sharing with them both the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our very lives as well (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

Welcoming In: "Welcoming in" means that we will love each other with such sincere, Christlike love that everyone will be able to see that we really are God's people (John 13:34-35).

Building Up: "Building up" means that, with His help, we will strive to become the people that God created us to be by learning from God's Word and growing in His amazing grace (Eph. 4:22-24).

Sending Forth: "Sending forth" means that we will humbly yet boldly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ so that everyone might know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (2 Cor. 5:20-21).

For the glory of God: "For the glory of God" means that in all things we will seek to glorify God and exalt the name of Jesus Christ, making true worship our motivation in everything (1 Corinthians 10:31).

OUR SEVEN CORE COMMITMENTS (EPHESIANS 4-6)

By the power of the Holy Spirit in us and the grace God gives, we commit to do our best to honor these seven commitments:

1.) We commit ourselves to unity (Ephesians 4:1-6)...

- by sustaining the doctrines and ordinances expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (1 Corinthians 1:10).
- by making "every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" that we have been given in Christ (Eph. 4:3).
- by being humble, gentle, patient, and forbearing, and by speaking God's truth in love (Ephesians 4:2).
- by boasting in Christ who unites us, not in distinctives or preferences that separate us (Colossians 3:11).

2.) We commit ourselves to ministry (Ephesians 4:7-16)...

- by developing my gifts and talents and using them in the church for the glory of God (1 Peter 4:10).
- by being equipped by our leaders to serve (Eph. 4:11-12).
- by developing the heart of a humble servant (Phil. 2:3-4,7).
- by regularly giving back to God a portion of my financial blessings and contributing gladly to the work of ministry (1 Corinthians 16:2)

3.) We commit ourselves to growth (Ephesians 4:17-32)...

- by regular attendance at Sunday services (Heb. 10:23-25).
- by growing a personal relationship with God through prayer, Bible study, and obedience (Psalm 1, 1 Peter 1:13-16).
- by not merely listening to God's Word, but actively and intentionally doing what it says (James 1:22).
- by denying self-rule and following Jesus Christ in daily life (Mark 8:34-37).
- by regular participation in small group fellowship (Sunday School, L.I.F.E. Groups, prayer gatherings, etc.) (Acts 2:42-47).

4.) We commit ourselves to kindness (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).

- by focusing on love as Jesus' central command (Matthew 22:37-39, John 13:34-35).
- by warmly welcoming those who visit church activities (Romans 15:7).
- by refusing to gossip, flatter, backbite, or speak ill of others—or even to listen to such things (Ephesians 4:29).
- by being slow to take offense and quick to speak courteously and give honest encouragement (James 1:19, Eph. 4:29-32).
- by humbly and gently seeking reconciliation with other members when conflict or interpersonal problems arise (Mat. 5:21-26, 18:15-20, Eph. 4:26-27).
- by having always an attitude of forgiveness and forgiving completely anyone who earnestly seeks forgiveness (Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 6:14-15).

5.) We commit ourselves to purity (Ephesians 5:3-20).

- by being set apart from sexually immoral behavior and committing to patterns of purity (Eph. 5:3-17).
- by avoiding speech that is filthy or degrading (Eph. 5:4).
- by being accountable for any serious or ongoing sinful patterns in my life, submitting to the model outlined in Matthew 18:15-20 (Mat.18:15-20, 1 Cor. 5:9-13, Gal. 6:1-2).
- by recognizing and heralding the wisdom of abstaining from the use of intoxicating beverages and destructive drugs (Eph. 5:18, Pro. 23:21).
- By pursuing justice, righteousness, and integrity in daily living (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).

6.) We commit ourselves to family (Ephesians 5:21-6:4).

- by earnestly striving to image forth the Gospel in marriage, with husbands taking their special cues from Christ and wives taking their special cues from the faithful church (Eph. 5:21-32).
- by raising our children in the training and instruction of the Lord and maintaining family devotions (Eph. 6:4).
- by affirming that the chief goal of parenting is to raise godly followers of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:4).

7.) We commit ourselves to battle (Ephesians 6:10-20).

- by being zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior (Rom. 12:11).
- by looking for ways to share Christ with others (Mat. 28:19-20).
- by praying for the advance of the Gospel (Mat. 9:35-38).
- by inviting those unconnected with a church to attend (Luke 14:23).
- by praying for the church's growth, both spiritual and numerical (1 Thessalonians 1:1-3).
- by praying for church leaders and watching over one another in prayer (Eph. 6:18-19).

We moreover engage that if we must remove membership from this congregation, we will as soon as possible, unite with another like-minded congregation where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.