

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

We, the Hot Springs Bible Church, understand that membership in a local church is more than merely entering one's name on a roster. Membership in a local church is an extension of one's membership in the universal Body of Christ (1Cor.12:12-27) and the scriptures are abundantly clear that members of the Body of Christ are called to a sacred covenant relationship with both God and one another. Therefore, in order to better understand and maintain our covenant relationship with one another, we set forward the following points of commitment which we solemnly and publically agree to exercise. These are a clarification and amplification of the existing membership policy in our constitution.

Authority

We covenant together to live by the authority and instruction of Scripture and the ordained leadership within this covenant family (2Tim.3:16,17 Hebrews 13:17). We also agree to comply with the administration of this church according to its constitution and by-laws.

Relationships

We covenant together to be "diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in a bond of peace" (Eph.4:3). We will be obedient to the Scriptures in regard to both the responsibility to love and care for one another, and the responsibility to bring Biblical resolution to any conflict with another Believer (Mt.18:15-20, 1Cor.6:1-8, 10:31, Pr.28:13, Mt. 7:3-5). Every covenant member will be encouraged to maintain a close relationship with another individual or group within the church to build each other up in the faith and avoid the snares of isolation.

Participation

We covenant together to be active in the exercise of our faith and participate in the affairs of this covenant family of Believers. We will use whatever God gives us to help build up our church family, extend blessings to the greater Body of Christ (Eph.4:11-16), and be active witnesses of the gospel of Jesus Christ to our community and the world.

In summary, we covenant together to bring God glory through our display of His growing presence within and among us. Unlike many organizations, every one of us in this covenant family has serious responsibilities toward one another. We are more an organism than an organization. We are more a family than a corporation. In order to experience and become what God has called us to be, we must covenant together to move out of our comfort zones, be willing to hurt and be hurt, forgive and love, sacrifice and struggle. To understand and embrace this perspective fully, God must open our eyes to see that we are "The Body of Christ" and this is more than a metaphor; it changes everything and safeguards us from the toxic effects of institutionalized Christianity and professionalized ministry.