



# Tapestry Church Covenant

*Tapestry Church desires to see lives transformed by the Gospel as we Exalt Christ through Gospel-centered teaching and everyday worship, Equip Believers through Life-changing community and Engage the World through Kingdom-focused mission.*

The church is the vehicle by which God is accomplishing His purposes in the world. The church exists to display the glory of God because all things exist for His glory.

Followers of Jesus have been invited graciously into God's redemptive purposes for the world through the church. In light of this reality, the opportunity to join a local church is much more than a commitment to consistent attendance or active involvement in community. It is also a sacred call to be involved in the redemptive work of our sovereign God and to be a microcosm of the universal household of God. Therefore, we will covenant together to fulfill these purposes and hold one another accountable to this high calling.

## **1. Tapestry Church Elders Obligations to the Church Body**

As overseers of a local church, elders are men entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping and caring for the corporate church body and her individual members. The following is an overview of the requirements for elders as defined within the Scriptures.

### **The Elders Covenant...**

- To, along with the aid of members, appoint elders and deacons according to the criteria assigned to them in Scripture<sup>1</sup>.
- 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 the Spirit<sup>2</sup>.
- To oversee the growth of members as disciples of Christ and give an account for their growth in grace, truth, and love<sup>3</sup>.
- To provide teaching and counsel from the whole Scripture<sup>4</sup>.
- To equip the members of the church for the work of ministry, including future Elders and Church Planters<sup>5</sup>.
- To be on guard against false teachers and teachings<sup>6</sup>.
- To lovingly oversee the exercise of discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole<sup>7</sup>.
- To set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated in the church covenant<sup>8</sup>.

## **2. Tapestry Church Members Covenant Obligations**

One of Tapestry Church's greatest convictions is that church membership should be meaningful. Therefore, we believe it is important to covenant together as a church family. As members of Tapestry Church, we affirm this covenant with one another, by God's grace, for our growth, and ultimately for the glory of our Triune God:

- A. Baptized Regenerate Community that Makes Disciples.** Having been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>9</sup> and to surrender our lives to Him<sup>10</sup>, and having been baptized by immersion as born again Christians<sup>11</sup> in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit<sup>12</sup>, we covenant with one another as one body in Christ to glorify God<sup>13</sup> by making disciples of Jesus among all nations<sup>14</sup>.

**B. Worship Together Regularly around the Scriptures and the Lord's Supper.** Together, we will draw near to God in worship<sup>15</sup>. We will delight in the glory of God<sup>16</sup>, depend on the presence of God<sup>17</sup>, and grow in the knowledge of God<sup>18</sup> by submitting to the Word of God in all matters of life, as the all-sufficient authority in our lives and in His Church<sup>19</sup>. Together, we will hold fast to the hope we profess<sup>20</sup>. We will participate regularly in the Lord's Supper<sup>21</sup> as we reverently and joyfully remember the past work of Christ's atoning sacrifice<sup>22</sup>, celebrate the present help of Christ, as our mediator who ever lives to intercede for us at the Father's right hand<sup>23</sup>, and anticipate the future return of Christ as the King of Kings<sup>24</sup>.

**C. Disciple and Care for One Another in Large and Small Groups.** The Gospel creates community – we are committed to living life together and challenging one another to grow as disciples of Christ. We are committed to living out the Gospel and its implications for everyday life<sup>25</sup>. Together, we will spur one another on to love and good deeds<sup>26</sup>. We will meet with one another consistently in small groups (Missional Communities & DNA Groups) and actively participate in the corporate gatherings of this local church, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together<sup>27</sup>. We will also pray for one another regularly<sup>28</sup> and serve one another selflessly<sup>29</sup>.

**D. Submit to and Pray for the Leadership of the Church.** We will cooperate with, submit to, and prayerfully support the leadership of the pastors (elders) who have been entrusted by God to serve and care for this body by teaching the Word of Christ to us and modeling the character of Christ before us<sup>30</sup>. We will seek the guidance of our elders and small groups in major life decisions.

**E. Good Stewards.** We covenant that we will give cheerfully, regularly, and generously to the support of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel both in our city and through all nations<sup>31</sup>. We affirm that we will give our spiritual gifts, time, resources, and money in a sacrificial manner consistent with the Gospel and for its progress.

**F. Display God's Glory through Unity and Discipline.**

Unity – Together, we will seek to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace<sup>32</sup>. We affirm that we are God's church and not our own therefore our preferences, needs, and desires are secondary to the mission and vision of the church. Part of maintaining unity and peace means we will adhere to Tapestry Church's "Doctrines" and Core Values and will not be divisive over Tapestry Church's Theological Distinctives laid out in the Statement of Faith (Baptist Faith & Message 2000).

Core Values:

- Gospel Centrality
- Everyday Worship
- Life Changing Community
- Kingdom-Focused Mission
- Multicultural

Restorative Discipline – We will humbly and gently confront one another and receive correction from one another in accordance with a New Testament understanding of church discipline and restoration<sup>33</sup>. We will submit to and prayerfully support the leadership of our pastors (elders) as they seek to oversee discipline among our church.

**G. Christian Growth.** We affirm our responsibility to grow in Christ and his Gospel through the consistent practice of spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, fasting, Scripture reading, worship, and others. We affirm, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to exercise our Christian liberty with responsibility, remembering that because of the Gospel, we have a special obligation to lead a new and holy life<sup>34</sup> (i.e. issues such as cohabitation, extra-marital sex, homosexuality, drug addictions, alcohol abuse, etc. are not consistent with this special obligation to lead a new and holy life).

We affirm to do the following should we leave the church for righteous reasons:

- We will notify the elders of the church that we are leaving
- We will seek out another church where we can carry out our biblical responsibilities as a believer.

**H. Gospel-Centered Families.** We will endeavor to build Gospel-Centered homes. Husbands will seek to lead their wives and children sacrificially as Christ leads the church, meaning husbands are ready to lay down their lives for their families<sup>35</sup>. Wives will seek to submit to their husbands, as the church does to Christ. As parents, we will raise the children under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends<sup>36</sup>.

*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.*

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Elder/Pastor Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **Scripture references:**

### **The Elders Covenant...**

- 1) 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 2) Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 3) Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:15-16; James 5:14; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 4) Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:1
- 5) Ephesians. 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:2
- 6) Matthew 7:15; John 10:12-13; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy. 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1
- 7) Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20
- 8) Acts 20:28; Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3

### **Church Members Covenant...**

#### **A. Baptized Regenerate Community...**

- 9) John 6:44; Acts 3:19, 16:31, 17:30, 20:21; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10
- 10) Luke 14:25-33
- 11) John 3:3; Acts 8:38, Acts 10:44-48
- 12) Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:1-4
- 13) Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31
- 14) Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2; Psalm 67:1-2; Revelation 7:9-10

#### **B. Worship Together Regularly...**

- 15) Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:22
- 16) Psalm. 16:11, 37:4, 63:1-11
- 17) Matthew 28:20; John 15:5, 16:7; 1 Peter 4:11
- 18) Philippians 3:10; Colossians 1:9-12; 2 Peter 3:17-18
- 19) Psalm 19:7-11, 119:105-112; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
- 20) Hebrews 10:23
- 21) Luke 22:7-23; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32
- 22) 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 23) Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:25, 9:24; 1 Timothy 2:5
- 24) Titus 2:13; Revelation 19:16

#### **C. Disciple and Care for One Another...**

- 25) 1 Peter 3:15, Galatians 2:14
- 26) Hebrews 10:24
- 27) Hebrews 10:25
- 28) Ephesians 6:18-20
- 29) Romans 12:9-13

#### **D. Submit to and Pray for the Leadership...**

- 30) Hebrews 13:7, 17; Acts 6:1-7; 20:28-31; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17-20; 1 Peter 5:1-4

#### **E. Good Stewards**

- 31) 2 Corinthians 8-9

#### **F. Display God's Glory...**

- 32) Ephesians 4:3
- 33) Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1

#### **G. Christian Growth**

- 34) Isaiah 5:11, 22; Luke 21:34; Romans 13:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:18

#### **H. Gospel-Centered Families**

35) Ephesians 5

36) Deuteronomy 6, Psalm 78