

MDC MEMBERS COVENANT

“When you make a vow to the Lord, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools. Fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.” (Ecclesiastes 5:4–5)

Purpose

When anyone enters into relationship with God by grace from, and faith in, the person and work of Jesus Christ they are entering into two covenants. The first is to journey with God for the rest of their lives and love Him fully. The second is to journey with His other children in the community of the local church. Your membership in a church is an official recognition of this, and the purposes of the Missio Dei Membership Covenant are:

- To join the Spirit in forming authentic community that reflects the relationship between the Father, Son and Spirit.
- To clarify the ongoing blessings and responsibilities of each member.
- To encourage consistency, accountability and loving unity within the church family.
- To accomplish God’s call for the MDC church family.

This covenant does not imply that you will perfectly keep your promises, but that the desire of your heart is to fulfill each of the responsibilities stated to the best of your ability. We trust that your commitment will be a blessing to your own journey in Christ, as well a blessing to those around you.

THE FACTS OF MEMBERSHIP

A numerical record was kept (Acts 2:37–47)

Records were kept of widows (1 Timothy 5:3–16)

Elections were conducted (Acts 6:1–6)

Discipline was carried out (Matthew 18:15–20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1)

Elders will be held accountable for members (Hebrews 13:17)

There was an awareness of who was a church member (Romans 16:1–16)

WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP COVENANTS THE FOLLOWING:

We commit ourselves to lovingly caring for you and seeking your growth in Christ (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12).

We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the Scriptures (Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17–18).

We commit that this teaching will span the whole counsel of God’s Word (Acts 20:27–28).

We commit to helping you in times of need (Acts 2:42–47, 4:32–35; James 2:14–17).

We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1–13; 5:17–22; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Peter 5:1–4).

We covenant to pray for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).

We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28–31).

We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matthew 18:15–20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1).

We covenant to help you become equipped to serve Christ (Ephesians 4:11–13).

We covenant to seek God’s will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1–5).

We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12).

WITH THE GUIDING HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, I, THE UNDERSIGNED, PUBLICLY PROCLAIM AS FOLLOWS:

I believe Jesus Christ is exactly who He claimed to be (Isaiah 5:6; Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:70; John 4:25–26; 6:29; 8:58; 11:25–27; 14:6–7; 15:5). I have renounced my old way of life, repented of my sins, asked God to forgive my sins, to cleanse me and make me a new creation (1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17). I confess Jesus Christ is the Lord and Master of my life (Romans 10:9).

I recognize that my sin nature has separated me from God and put me at enmity with Him, the object of his wrath. Because of my sins I deserve eternal torment and separation from God, i.e.: Hell (Romans 3:10, 23).

I recognize that there is only one way to God, salvation, the kingdom of heaven and eternal life: Jesus Christ. There is no other way. My redemption and the forgiveness of sins is an unmerited gift of grace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, accomplished by His death and shed blood on the cross at Calvary (John 14:6; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8–9).

I am a Christian who has been saved from my sins by the grace of Jesus Christ. I have accepted His gift of salvation bought by His death on the cross, the penalty for my sins, and His resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life (John 3:16–18; Romans 3:23–26).

In obedience to Scripture, I have been baptized as a children in a Christian church or after I became a believer in Jesus Christ as evidence and testimony of my commitment to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, my Savior (Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21).

I have read and understood the Missio Dei Statement of Faith and agree to not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (Ephesians 4:1–3; Hebrews 13:7, 17).

I will endeavor to maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular personal Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of the other spiritual disciplines. My commitment to follow Jesus Christ will be evident through my regular participation in corporate worship, my willingness to serve where needed, and my involvement

in fellowship with other members of the church body through a small group or class (Psalms 119:97; 105:1–2; Acts 2:42–47; Hebrews 10:23–25).

I will strive to properly manage the resources God has given me, including my time, body, spiritual gifts and talents, attitudes, finances and possessions (Proverbs 3:9–10; Romans 12:1–2; Ephesians 4:1–16; 5:15–18; Gal 5:22–26). This includes regular giving and service to the local church (Missio Dei) that is sacrificial, cheerful, active, and voluntary (Romans 12:1–8; 2 Corinthians 8–9; 12:7–31; 1 Peter 4:10–11).

I commit myself to the Missio Dei Church family and agree to aid in fulfilling its missional purpose to both be and bring the gospel to greater Lincoln-Way area by being a doer of the Word and not a hearer only, serving Jesus as my Master and Lord in every area of my life.

I covenant to practice the humility and sacrificial attitude of Christ by considering the needs of others (Philippians 2:1–11), by seeking spiritual friendships (Proverbs 17:17), and by not gossiping (Proverbs 16:28; Matthew 18:15–17).

I covenant to have friendly Christian relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ from other churches, but I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family (Hebrews 13:17).

I covenant to be self-disciplined, to follow the biblical procedures of church discipline regarding my brothers and sisters in Christ, and submit myself to church discipline if the need should ever arise (Matthew 18:15–17; 1 Corinthians 5:1–5; 2 Corinthians 2:5–8; Galatians 6:1–5, 8; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10–11; Revelation 2:5–7, 14–25).

I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119, 2 Timothy 3:16–17). God enabling me, I will strive to consider my commitment to this Membership Covenant on a yearly basis. I understand that it is an evaluative tool, as well as an affirmation of my continuing conviction and purpose. My responsibility will be to notify the Missio Dei leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Missio Dei Church.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____