

Appendix C

Membership Covenant

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with the mission and vision of Good Shepherd, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with this church in official membership. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other people to do the following:

- 1) I will protect the unity and spirituality of my church
 - ...by acting in love toward other people
 - ...by refusing to gossip
 - ...by cooperating with the leaders (provided they lead in a Christ-centered, Scripture-honoring way).

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves...”

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification” (Romans 12:10, 14:19).

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs” (Ephesians 4:29).

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as ones who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you” (Hebrews 13:17).

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- 2) I will support the witness of my church
- ...by inviting the unchurched to attend
 - ...by warmly welcoming those who visit
 - ...by living a godly life
 - ...by accepting and living by Biblical morality, including celibacy in singleness and faithfulness in heterosexual marriage.

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us” (2 Corinthians 5:20).

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2).

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27).

- 3) I will uphold my church
- ...by lifting it up before God on a regular basis (prayers)
 - ...by attending worship services (presence)
 - ...by giving a planned proportion of my income (gifts)
 - ...by serving in at least one area of the church’s ministries (service)

“Pray continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

“Let us not give up meeting together...” (Hebrews 10:25).

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” (Leviticus 27:30)

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...” (1 Peter 4:10)