

Living Hope Baptist Church Covenant

Covenant: our life together defined by how we relate

- 1. Covenant defined:** A covenant is a firm bond between two or more persons built on shared commitments of faithful love. Unlike a contract, in which a relationship may be abandoned for any number of reasons, a covenant relationship is sturdy under stress and resilient with hope.

Throughout the Bible, “covenant” describes the relationship between God and humanity in the redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ. Those who enter that covenant with God by salvation through Christ are bound together as members of His church. Since “covenant” also describes the relationship between God and His unique people, it is the foundation of the Bible’s model and instruction about the life of a church body.

Thus, a church covenant is a firm bond between the members of a local church built on their shared commitments of faithful love. These commitments are to the Lord and the mission of His church, to and for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, and to the world. The covenant clarifies the privileges and responsibilities of church membership for the honor of King Jesus.

- 2. Covenant expressed:** For centuries, local churches have developed unique expressions of the shared commitments which define their relationships, life, and mission together. The members of Living Hope Baptist Church agree to live by the following covenant:

Having, as we trust, been brought by God’s divine grace to repent of our sins and trust Jesus Christ alone as Savior, Lord, and greatest treasure of our lives, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we now, relying on His gracious aid by the indwelling Holy Spirit, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another.

We commit to faithfully

Love Jesus Above All

because the gospel is our life-- the good news that God is redeeming and reconciling people and all creation to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ so that we can love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

We will seek to keep Jesus Christ as the defining center of life. We will grow to know and love Him more through a personal pursuit of God in His Word, prayer, and other spiritual habits. We will follow Him as obedient disciples who gladly submit to the teachings of Scripture as expressed in the Articles of Faith. We will live out the gospel by pursuing holiness in all aspects of life, both in public and in private. We will walk in wisdom to pursue attitudes and actions that reflect the character of Christ, and avoid those attitudes and actions which do not, so that we never compromise our mission. We will live for the glory of God in all things.

We commit to faithfully

Gather to Worship

because the gospel enables disciples to enter God's presence, reveals the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, and calls us to declare His praise and delight in His actions.

We will gather as a faith-family each Lord's Day to celebrate who God is, testify about His work through the gospel of Jesus Christ, hear the proclamation of God's Word, and respond to Him with our lives in the power of the Spirit. We will engage our minds and hearts in all aspects of our worship gathering as participants rather than spectators because our worship is both an encouragement to other disciples and a testimony to those who do not yet know Him.

We commit to faithfully

Relate to One Another as Christ's Family

because the gospel creates a new community of people transformed by Christ who live together in love as the church, sharing together the gospel and our very lives.

We will live as a faith-family, connecting in groups that foster the sort of Christ-centered relationships that enable us to fully love one another as Scripture commands, consider others more important than ourselves, and express Christ's care as we share both joys and sorrows. We will embrace gospel encouragement for our growth in faith as well as gospel accountability for our sin. We will protect the unity of the Spirit by prioritizing love, avoiding gossip and hurtful speech, pursuing peacemaking and reconciliation in conflict, and humbly following the servant leadership of our elders and pastors. We will be faithful to pray for the ministries, members, and leadership of our church.

We commit to faithfully

Serve the Church and the World

because the gospel calls us to love others as ourselves, and like Jesus, to sacrificially serve their needs by the Spirit's power.

We will live as disciples who do good by ministering to the life and spiritual needs of others with our time, resources, abilities, experiences, and spiritual gifts. We will faithfully serve the ministries of our church. We will consistently demonstrate the beauty of the gospel with our neighbors and seek the good of all people in our communities through prayer along with acts of mercy and kindness. We will be good stewards of all God has given us, contributing cheerfully and generously to support the ministry of the church and the advancement of God's Kingdom with regular tithes and offerings.

If called to serve the church in a biblical office (Elder/Pastor, Minister, Deacon), with a policy-making body, or lead in any area that has spiritual influence and/or teaches God's Word to others, we will soberly recognize our accountability before God and model all the commitments of this covenant with godly integrity as one whom others can follow in faith and life.

We commit to faithfully
Be Equipped for Growth

because the gospel means to transform us to become like Jesus in thought, character, and action, so for our lifetime there will always be more of Him to know and more of us to grow.

We will pursue the ongoing study of the Scriptures to gain deeper understanding of God's truth and greater wisdom to apply it to all areas of life. We will work to develop the skills and abilities needed to be effective in ministry. We will nurture joyful contentment in singleness and faithfully model the gospel in marriage. We will endeavor to bring up our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord so that we pass the gospel faith to the next generation.

We commit to faithfully
Make More Disciples

because the gospel calls us to be part of God's eternal and global plan of redemption as ambassadors for King Jesus.

Until Christ returns, we will live on mission by consistently displaying and declaring the good news of Jesus where we live, work, learn, and play. We will develop disciples who make disciples through intentional relationships. We will baptize and teach them according to Jesus' commission. We will support the multiplication of gospel impact among unreached peoples both locally and globally by praying, giving, and going on mission. We will work in the power of the Spirit to be a blessing to our broken world and all people in it with the love, mercy, and hope of Jesus to the glory of God. To that end, we will pray with bold faith, believing God will do far more than we can ask or imagine.

We will, if we leave this fellowship of disciples, as soon as possible join another gospel church where we may carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.