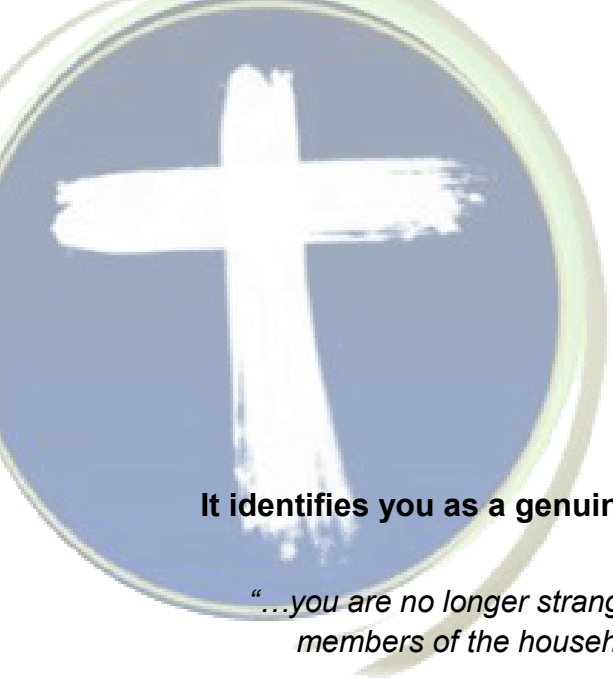


Memorial Baptist Church



GETTING CONNECTED @MBC



Memorial Baptist Church

STARTING POINT

Why become a church member?

It identifies you as a genuine believer.

*“...you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” **Ephesians 2:19***

*“...so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” **Romans 12:5***

The New Testament word for church is *ekklesia*. It means, “the called out ones.” It consists of those who have been called out to follow Jesus. Christ is committed to the local church and so should those who follow Him. The church should consist of those who are genuine believers, and every believer should unite with a local church.

It provides a spiritual family to support and encourage you in your walk with Christ.

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” **Hebrews 10:24-5***

Membership is an unselfish decision. The difference between belonging and attending is like the difference between being married and cohabitation. Membership can be summed up in a word: **commitment**. We live in an age where very few are willing to be committed to anything; therefore, membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.”

It gives you a place to discover and use your spiritual gifts in ministry.

*“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.” **1 Corinthians 12:4-6***

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every army must have an enlistment. Membership identifies our family of believers—those who can be counted on in our



Memorial Baptist Church

STARTING POINT

It places you under the spiritual protection of godly leaders.

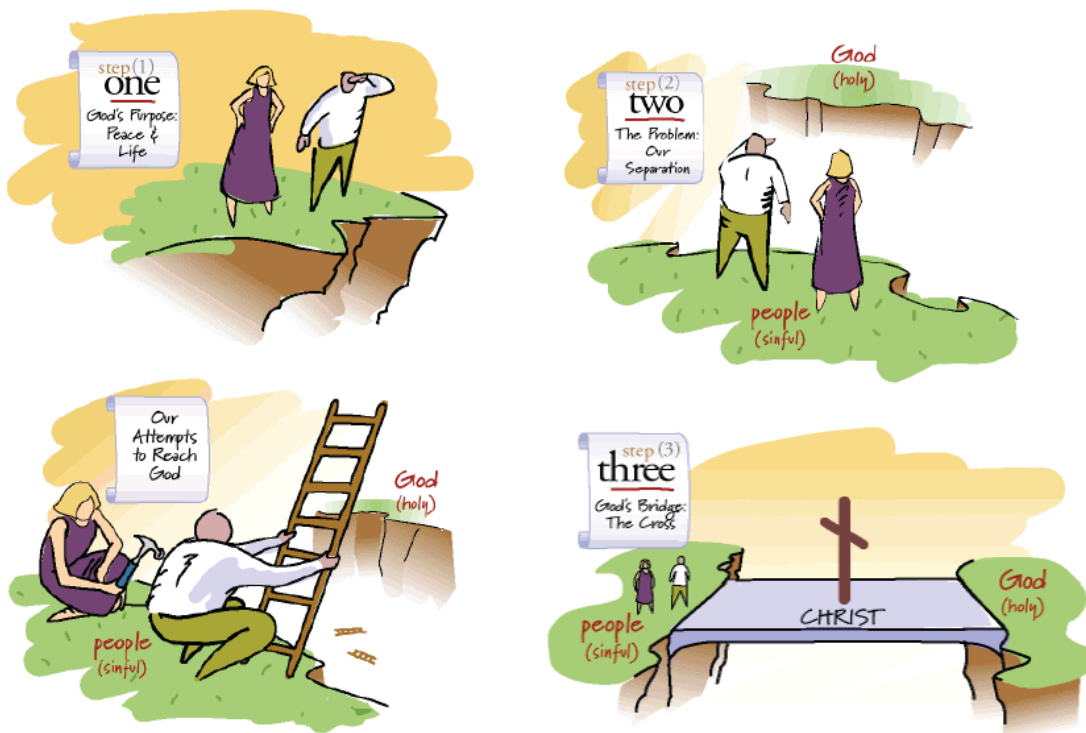
“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.” Hebrews 13:17a

God gives the church spiritual leaders who are responsible for equipping the members to do the work of the ministry (**Ephesians 4:11-12**). These leaders have as their primary responsibility the study and teaching of the Bible. They are also required to lead the effort to reach others with the good news of God’s salvation and oversee the entire scope of the church’s work.

It gives you the accountability you need in order to grow.

“...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you are not committed to any specific church family. There are 30 commands in the bible that one cannot fulfill unless they are attached to a local body of believers.



“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23



Memorial Baptist Church

STARTING POINT

Sharing Your Faith

Sharing your faith begins with **intercession**. Below is a prayer guide to help you pray for those who are spiritually lost:

- Hearts prepared
- Eyes & ears opened
- Agree with God about sin
- Repent
- Trust Christ only & transformed life
- Sent out to tell others

"If [lost sinners] will not hear you speak, they cannot prevent your praying. Do they jest at your exhortations? They cannot disturb you at your prayers. Are they far away so that you cannot reach them? Your prayers can reach them. Have they declared that they will never listen to you again, nor see your face? Never mind, God has a voice, which they must hear. Speak to Him, and He will make them feel. Though they treat you despitefully, rendering evil for good, follow them with your prayers. Never let them perish for lack of supplications."

Charles Spurgeon

As we pray, God reveals & burdens our hearts with their needs. This is our invitation to make an **investment** in that person for the sake of the gospel.

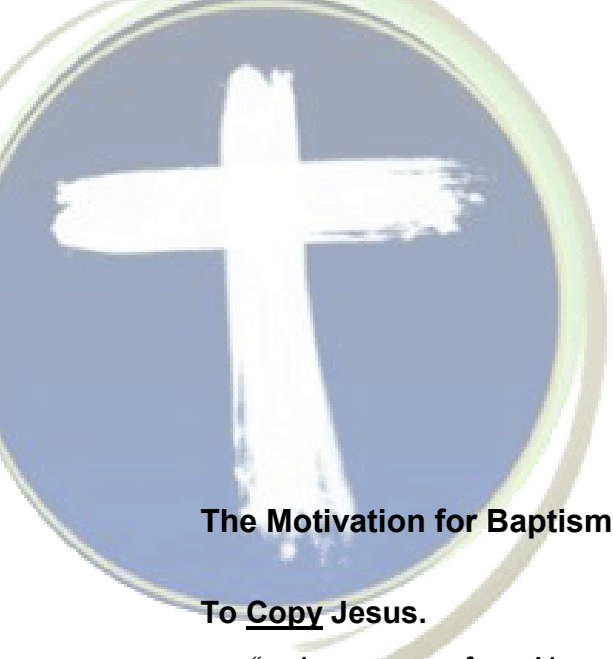
"He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him." **John 13:4b-5**

Practical demonstrations of God's love earn us an opportunity that cannot be neglected; now's the time to **invite** them to our church.

"Then they said to one another, 'We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news.' "
2 Kings 7:9a

There's yet one more step in sharing your faith: follow-up any your faith sharing experience with an **intentional conversation** about the gospel.

"God did not give us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do



Why Should I be Baptized?

The Motivation for Baptism

To Copy Jesus.

"...Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan." **Mark 1:8**

It is Commanded by Jesus.

"Go...Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father...Son...and Holy Spirit." **Matthew 18:19**

To Confess Faith in Jesus.

"We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands." **John 2:3**

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word." **John 14:15, 23**

The Method of Baptism

Baptizo: to dip/lower beneath the water; To plunge, dip, or immerse; To sink, drench or overwhelm.

It requires...

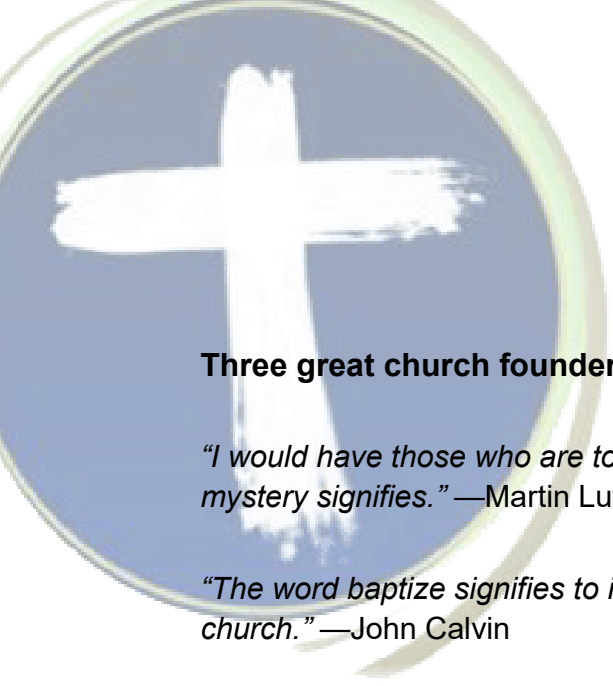
Water: *"I indeed baptized you with water."* **Mark 1:8a**

Much water: *"John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there..."* **John 3:23**

Going into water: *"And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him."* **Acts 8:38**

Being buried beneath the water: *"Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."* **Romans 6:4**

Coming up out of the water: *"When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water..."* **Romans 6:4**



Three great church founders say:

"I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies." —Martin Luther

"The word baptize signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church." —John Calvin

"Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church." —John Wesley

The Meaning of Baptism

It illustrates the Gospel.

"...Christ died for our sins...He was buried...And He rose again."
1 Corinthians 15: 3-4

"...When you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." **Colossians 2:12**

It Illustrates Grace.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...all things have become new."
2 Corinthians 5:17

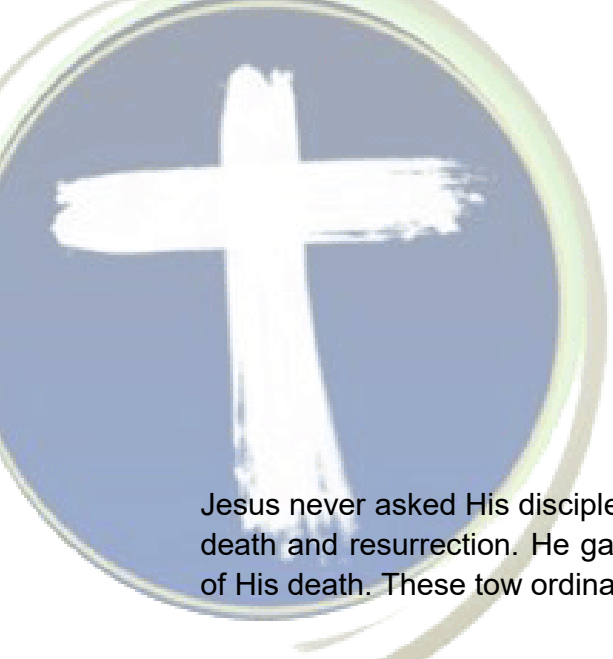
"We were buried with Him through baptism...just as Christ was raised from the dead...even so we..." **Romans 6:4**

It Illustrates Glory.

"...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we..." **Romans 6:4**

The Moment for Baptism

As soon as you believe!



The Meaning of Communion

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols, called ordinances, as reminder of His death. These two ordinances are baptism and communion.

Communion is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

What is Communion according to 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

A time of _____ . (v. 17-26)

We have the same _____ . (v. 23)

We have the same _____ . (v. 24-25)

We have the same _____ . (v. 26)

A time of _____ . (v. 27-32)

Confession of sin (1 John 1:9)

Recommitment (Romans 12:1)

Restoring relationships (Matthew 5:23-24, 1 Corinthians 5)

A time of _____ . (v. 33-34)

Who should participate in Communion?

Only those who are _____ (Mark 14:22-26)

“For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgement to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.” 1Corinthians 11:29



Memorial Baptist Church

STARTING POINT

The Purpose of Serving

Every member serves in ministry because: “Every member is a minister!”

Ministry means “_____.”

Serving is the act of putting the needs of others before _____.

*“For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served, but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.” **Matthew 28:20***

The goal of the ministry system is to help people become like _____.

*“For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And he gave them right standing with himself, and he promised them his glory.” **Romans 8:29-30***

You cannot become like Jesus Christ unless you learn to be a _____.

Serving opens people’s hearts to God and therefore is part of _____.

If a person isn’t serving, then they aren’t truly _____ and _____ in their faith.

Mobilizing people for ministry is part of _____.

The role of the pastor is to _____ people for ministry.

*“He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” **Ephesians 4:11-12***



The Purpose of Growth Groups

Members participate in Growth Groups because Growth Groups are:

Biblical: The _____ met together in small groups.

“They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity – all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47

Practical: Groups make sense _____ and economically.

Spiritual: Small groups give people the best opportunity to become _____.

Balanced: Small groups are the best way to instill the biblical _____ in our church and in each individual:

Fellowship

Discipleship

Worship

Evangelism

Ministry



A member practices biblical stewardship.

Stewardship is more than just giving; it's about living. I have what I have by the grace of God. All that I am and all that I have belongs to God. Therefore, I am accountable to God for what I do with my life. Generosity is just one means by which I demonstrate my accountability before God as His steward of these resources.

Let's trace what the Bible says about the tithe:

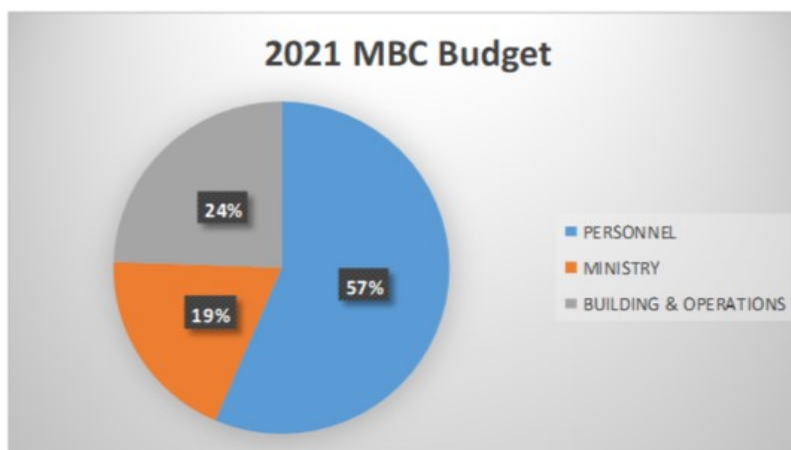
Tithing _____ before it was commanded. **Genesis 14:17-24**

Tithing is _____ by God. **Malachi 3:8-12**

Tithing is _____ by Jesus. **Matthew 23:23**

While tithing is a good place to _____, grace giving (2 Corinthians 8-9) never _____.

When I give, where does it go?



What if we live Simply and Give Generously.

First _____ belongs to God.

Second _____ belongs to savings.

Third _____ belongs to future investment.

Final _____ belongs to budgeted living



Memorial Baptist Church

STARTING POINT

Our Affiliations

A church technically becomes a Southern Baptist church by contributing to the mission causes of the **Southern Baptist Convention** (SBC). If that contribution is made within the fiscal year (October-September) preceding a particular annual meeting (June), then the church is entitled to send as many as ten messengers to the annual convention meeting. Though a church may be an SBC church without affiliating with a state convention or local association of SBC churches, it is customary to participate in all three. There are currently 42 conventions and fellowships and more than 1,200 local associations. Each has its particular ministries, fellowship, and mission outreach, and there is a great deal of cooperation among them.

We are a part of the: **Cabarrus Baptist Association**

We also cooperate with the: **North Carolina Baptist State Convention**

Finally, we are affiliated with the: **Southern Baptist Convention**

Technically, the SBC exists for only two days a year, at the annual gathering. The rest of the year, denominational entities carry out the instructions of the messengers to the convention. The authority, then, resides with the messengers elected by churches and participating in the two-day meeting. Still, those churches and individuals who identify with this enterprise typically call themselves Southern Baptist.

The Cooperative Program (CP) is an agreement among SBC churches, state conventions and fellowships, local associations, and the SBC to work together in Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) ministries.



Memorial Baptist Church

STARTING POINT

A Brief History of Southern Baptists

Early origins

Baptists in America first came from England to New England. The first Baptist church in America was founded in 1639 in Rhode Island. Baptists first arrived in the southern United States near the end of the 17th century in Charleston, S.C. The zealous evangelism of the Separate Baptists was the chief instrument of spreading the Baptist denomination throughout the southern US. In 1814, 33 delegates "from missionary societies and other religious bodies of Baptists in America" met in Philadelphia and formed the first national Baptist organization. This was better known as the "Baptist Board of Foreign Missions" or the "Triennial Convention," since the convention met every three years. The seat of operations was first Philadelphia, then Washington, D.C., and Boston after 1826.

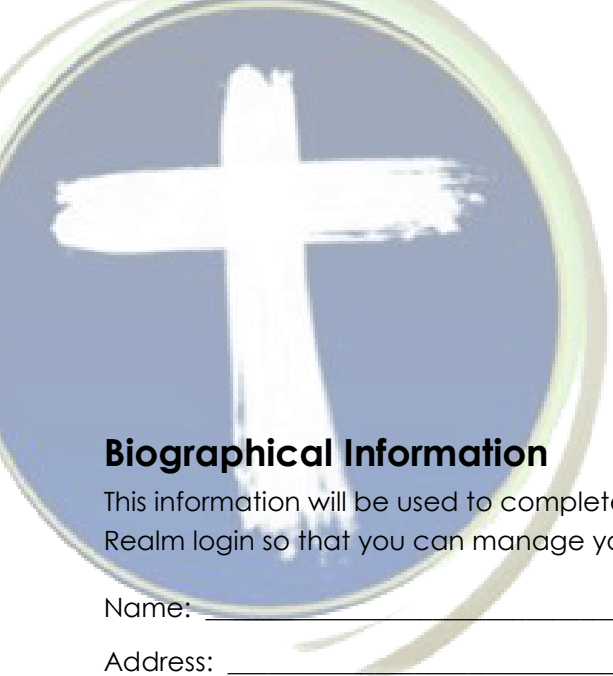
Birth Pains

It is evident that Baptists, both north and south, preferred different types of denominational organization: the Baptists in the north as a whole preferred a loosely structured society composed of individuals who paid annual dues, with each society usually focused on a single ministry, while the southern churches preferred an organization composed of churches patterned after their associations, with a variety of ministries brought under the direction of one denominational organization. Baptists from the South subsequently broke from the national organizations and formed a new convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, which was formed May 8–12, 1845, in Augusta, Ga. Its first president was William Bullein Johnson (1782-1862), who was president of the Triennial Convention in 1841. The consequences of this decision have been long lived.

A survey by the Home Mission Board in 1968 showed that only 11 percent of Southern Baptist churches would admit Americans of African descent. The Southern Baptist Convention of 1995 voted June 20 to adopt a resolution renouncing its racist roots and apologizing for its past defense of slavery. The racism resolution marked the denomination's first formal acknowledgment that racism played a role in its founding. Today there are many diverse and even self-consciously ethnic churches within the convention.

Affiliated Organizations

The Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845 primarily for the purpose of creating a mission board to support the sending of Baptist missionaries. The North American Mission Board (NAMB)—originally founded as the Domestic Mission Board, and later the Home Mission Board—in Alpharetta, Ga., serves missionaries involved in evangelism and church planting in the US and Canada, while the International Mission Board (IMB)—originally the Foreign Mission Board—in Richmond, Va., sponsors missionaries to the rest of the world.



Memorial Baptist Church

STARTING POINT

Membership Covenant

Biographical Information

This information will be used to complete your church profile in Realm. We encourage you to create your own Realm login so that you can manage your information and how it is shared with others.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Mobile Carrier: _____ May we text you? _____

E-Mail: _____ May we email you? _____

Marital Status: Married ___ Single ___ Separated ___ Divorced ___ Widowed ___

Are you already in a small group? Yes ___ Which one? _____

No ___ What would be the best day/time for you? _____

Regarding baptism, please select one of the following: (Based on your response we will follow up accordingly)

___ I have been baptized by immersion following my salvation.

___ I have accepted Jesus as my Lord & Savior and am ready to be baptized.

___ I have some additional questions about baptism and would like to speak with the Pastor.

Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its well-being and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk carefully in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our behavior; to avoid all tattling, back-biting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs, to promote the sanctity of human life, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this church we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Name (Printed) _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____