

## **1.) As a Member, I covenant to River of Life Church:**

### **a.) I submit myself to God's Word over all things in my life**

*Being born again by God and baptized in obedience, I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter (settles a dispute or has ultimate authority in a matter) on all issues. (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)*

### **b.) Without reserve, I agree with the doctrines & teaching of the church**

*I have read, understood, and am unreservedly in agreement with the River of Life [doctrinal statement](#) and will not be divisive to the teaching of the doctrines of the church or its leaders. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve peace as we seek unity for the local church. (1 Corinthians 1.10; Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17)*

### **c.) I will pursue holiness in my private and home life**

*I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I may live a new life; I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication; I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Scriptures dictate. Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my transgressions to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death.*

*(2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10; Job 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 3.3, 6.9-10, 11.19; Eph. 5.3; Col. 3.5; James 3.14-15; Mt 15.18-20)*

### **d.) I will pursue righteousness by being faithful to River of Life Church**

*I realize that breaking of regular fellowship from the local church usually indicates a break in my fellowship with God. Therefore I will strive to be holy by maintaining a close relationship with God through practices of spiritual disciplines such as: regular Bible reading, prayer, & fellowship. My relationship will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, communion, River of Life community, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus. As I devote myself wholly unto the Lord and River of Life Church, I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family. (Joshua 24.15; Deut. 11.19-21; Ezek. 36.27; Jn 15.1-17; 1 Jn 2.19, 3.9-10, 5.1-2; Ps. 105:1-2, 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3; James 2.14-26; 2 Corinthians 8.5; Heb. 13:17)*

### **e.) I will give of myself and my resources for God's church, kingdom, & glory**

*As God's Steward, I will manage the resources He has given me, including my time, talents, and riches. This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, generous, and voluntary. Treasuring Christ above my resources, I will contribute to the support of the ministry of River, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to our community and though all nations.*

*(Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-8; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16, 5:15-18; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:7-31; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)*

### **f.) I gladly ask the church to keep me accountable in my Christian walk**

*I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow Biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached Biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise. I willingly do this to proclaim Christ's victory over sin in me.*

*(Ps. 141:5; Mt 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5 8; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Tit. 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25).*

## **2.) As a Church we covenant to the Members:**

### **a.) We covenant to teach and counsel from the whole of Scripture.**

*As a congregation that values and treasures God's word as the substance that we live on alone for truth in this world, we promise to do our best to consistently teach and counsel from the Bible. In this age when being politically correct is more popular than being Biblically correct, we resolve to always seek the Holy Spirit's direction on all matters as He confirms them through the Holy Scriptures. Therefore we will edify our brothers and sisters in Christ with the whole counsel of God's word.*

*(Acts 20:27-28; Gal 6:6; 1 Tim 4:13; 1 Tim 5:17-18; 2 Tim 4:2; Titus 2:1)*

### **b.) We covenant to be on guard against false teachers.**

*As a church that desires to chase hard after God, we commit to being on guard against people who might try to divide the church through non-contextual usage of the Scriptures and the trickery of persuasive speech. As a congregation, we will do our best through the aiding of the Holy Spirit to be good "Bereans", meaning we will search the Scriptures daily to make sure that everything that is taught is upheld in God's word. We resolve to not believe every spirit or teaching unless it is proven Biblically, in-context, and supported using cross-referencing and diligent study.*

*(Mark 13:22-23; Acts 20:28-31; 1 John 4:1-6; Acts 2:42; Acts 17:11)*

### **c.) We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties prescribed for every Christian, as a member of this church.**

*The saying is true: We may be the only Bible that other people see in this life. River of Life members covenant to live lives to exemplify the gospel's power over sin and God's sustaining grace to live victoriously in Christ. We are not perfect, but we are being perfected. Therefore in love, we will seek to be imitators of Christ. We will live this way to set an example to all those around us with our speech and conduct, with love, faith and purity. We do all of this for the honor of Christ.*

*(1 Cor 11:1; Phil 3:17; 1 Tim 4:12)*

### **d.) We covenant that your leaders will meet the criteria and qualifications as assigned by the the Scriptures and seek God's will to shepherd the flock.**

*As a church that is committed to seeking God's will by following the Bible, we will use the criteria that God has set forth therein when selecting pastors/elders and deacons to lead you. We will also hold these officers accountable to this criteria in their walk with the Lord. We do this to assure that the leaders of this church are staying true to the Lord and will not lead the body of Christ astray. We will seek God's will for our local body by being in constant prayer and true to the whole of the Scriptures.*

*(Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5; 1 Timothy 5:17-22)*

**e.) We covenant to care for you and assist in your growth as a disciple of Christ, by equipping you for service, and praying for you regularly.**

*In seeking God's will for our church, we understand that we must make sure that each member of the church family continues to grow to be a disciple of God. This is to prepare you to follow in God's plan by equipping you to do the service He has called you to do. We do this with the understanding that, at times this could call you to do things that may be out of your comfort zone. We do this in love to co-labor with God to further you along in the sanctification process of becoming more like Christ.*

*(James 5:14; Eph 4:15; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:17-18)*

**f.) We covenant to exercise Biblical church discipline when necessary with the aim to restore a wayward saint to right fellowship with the church & Christ.**

*In pursuit of (1) holiness in the body of Christ, (2) the salvation of those in the world, and (3) the glory of Christ in Heaven, we will lovingly practice Biblical church discipline. The goal is to reinstate the erring brother to good fellowship with God and the local church. We will participate in church discipline sparingly and without eagerness. We will treat the four steps set out by Christ as individual processes, giving the wayward brother much opportunity to consider wise counsel and return to right standing. However, we will not sweep sin under the rug and profane God's name in our local church, nor will we openly mock God's grace with an unwilling attitude to deal with sin. Therefore if one refuses discipline from the church, he is to be exiled with the hope that, through the suffering of loss, God might use this and cause him to repent and thus save His soul. We will adhere to the wisdom of the elders, as instructed by God through the Holy Spirit's guidance in the Scriptures. We will do all of this to proclaim Christ's victory over sin in us.*

*(Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-22; 1 Cor. 5; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5 8; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25).*