

Pine Grove Community Church Team Covenants

The Bible nowhere gives believers a specific copy of what a local church covenant should look like. However, the Bible does describe the relationships between people in local churches as covenantal. Christians are commanded to care for one another, participate in ministry together, confess sin to one another, submit to the leadership of their local pastor/elders, etc. Pastors are called to care for the flock entrusted to their care, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to expect God to hold them accountable to this holy calling, etc. It is for this reason that many churches throughout the history of Christianity have written local church covenants.

This covenant seeks to briefly explain the expectations given to the pastor/elders and to the team members of Pine Grove Community Church.

Pastors/ Elders Covenant Responsibilities at Pine Grove Community Church

We the pastors of Pine Grove Community Church covenant:

- To have pastors and elders that meet the qualifications described in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- To continually and prayerfully seek God's guidance for Pine Grove Community Church, and to steward the resources entrusted to the church to the best of our abilities (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- To care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth, and love (Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:15-16 Colossians 1:28; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- To provide teaching and counsel from the entirety of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:1).
- To equip the team members of the church for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16).
- To be on guard against false teachers and false teachings (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1).
- To lovingly exercise church discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, for the good of the one disciplined, and for the health of the church as a whole (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).
- To set an example by joining the team members in fulfilling the obligations of team membership stated on following pages. (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3).

Team Membership Covenant Responsibilities at Pine Grove Community Church

We the team members of Pine Grove Community Church covenant to the following:

1. I will glorify the Lord of my church by seeking His fame in my life through worship, obedience to His Word, service inside and outside of the church, spiritual formation (such as regular Bible reading, pursuing the spiritual disciplines, and participation in the Lord's Supper), sharing the gospel with others, and by living a life that brings honor to Christ. I understand that I'm called to honor Christ in every stage and season of my life whether it be in singleness, in dating, in friendship, in marriage, in parenting, in my job, in retirement, etc.

Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6).

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2).

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ^{since} you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24).

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20).

2. I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other team members, refusing to gossip, following the leaders, encouraging other team members to grow in their faith, and by living in a way that does not bring disrepute to the gospel or Pine Grove Community Church. We will hold each other accountable in this unity and covenant, following the teachings of scripture as described in the Pine Grove Community Church Statement of Faith.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35).

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:44-47).

Now finally, all of you should be like-minded and sympathetic, should love believers, and be compassionate and humble, not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, giving a blessing, since you were called for this, so that you can inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:8-9).

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. (Hebrews 13:17).

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. (Galatians 6:1).

3. I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, by inviting the unchurched to attend, by warmly welcoming those who visit, and by seeking to make disciples of all nations.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:2-6).

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21).

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (1 Peter 2:12).

4. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering where God wants me to serve, by discovering my gifts and talents, by being equipped to serve by my pastors, and by developing a servant's heart.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

"But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body." (1 Corinthians 12:18-20).

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13).

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (John 13:12-15).

5. I will support the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, by living a godly life, not teaching doctrine contrary to Pine Grove Community Church's beliefs, and by giving regularly. I understand that if I relocate and am unable to attend Pine Grove Community Church, I should inform them of my move and find another Bible-believing church to unite with in faith, service, and life.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:13-16).

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. (Romans 16:17-18).

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." (1 Timothy 5:17-18).

6. To willingly submit to biblical church discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, for the good of myself, and for the health of the church as a whole according to the standards of scripture as found in the following verses:

"If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that

everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17).

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, ~~hand~~ hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.

What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you." (1 Corinthians 5:13)

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. (Galatians 6:1).

My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins. (James 5:19-20).

This document has relied upon and adapted text from several other churches including Saddleback Church, Grace Church, and the Village Church.

Pine Grove Community Church: Statement of Faith

God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

Ministry Philosophy

We believe that the Biblical purpose of the Church is to build Christ-followers up in their faith, to equip them with the skills to live their lives in such a way that they are lights in their world. As lights, they are prepared then to show and declare the love of Christ to a world that needs Him.

We believe that the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to do the work in the people of God. The Bible is culturally relevant and what is needed to prepare God's people for the work of ministry. That work is for all of God's people regardless of age or education.

We strive to put our confidence in Christ alone to accomplish His work through us and to provide the wisdom, resources, and ability to be and to do what He asks.

We believe that Jesus called His followers to love their neighbors as themselves, therefore Christ-followers should be the most welcoming, loving and friendly people, especially while at church.

We believe that God has called us to participate in world missions, so we will build the Great Commission into the foundation of this new church by supporting cross-cultural missions.

As we believe that God asks every believer to tithe at least 10% of his income to the work of the local church, we also believe that the church should set an example by tithing a minimum of 10% of its income to missions. Therefore, from the start, Pine Grove Community Church will set aside at least 10% of its offerings towards the support of Local and World Missions.

Vision Statement

Win - Build - Equip - Send

We exist to build Christ-followers; to equip and send them into their world to win the lost.

"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelist, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:11-12

Core Values

God has called the church primarily to train Christ-followers...

Christ came not to bind us to religion but to set us free from sin and legalism, therefore growing together as a body should be fun and full of life as we learn and discover God's unique call on our lives.

Every believer is uniquely gifted to serve and will be expected, in his or her own way, to serve. The Body of Christ is not for spectators, but participants.

We want and encourage all believers to experience the joy of giving to God's work on earth. There is no greater joy than to hold things loosely; but to give freely of time, abilities and finances.

We hold formal membership to the church loosely, but hold in highest regard the believers accountability to the Body of Christ.

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized after my salvation, and being in agreement with Pine Grove Community Church's team covenant, core values, Statement of Faith, and vision, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Pine Grove Community Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members of Pine Grove Community Church.

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Pastor's Signature _____

Please briefly write your faith story.

My life before I knew Christ as my Savior:

Why and how I received Christ as my Savior:

Date of baptism:

My life after I received Christ as my Savior: