

"COVENANT MEMBERSHIP"

THE COVENANT OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Yes! I confess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

2. Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of the world, and repent of your sin?

I do. I renounce all spiritual forces of wickedness, reject evil in all its forms, and I formally close all access to any of those forces in my past, present or future. I am a sinner, standing in the need of God's grace and I repent of my sin.

3. Do you receive God's forgiveness of your sins as shown in Jesus' death on the cross – as well as the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, oppression and sin?

I do. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, I am forgiven. I am a child of Almighty God and I have the freedom and power in Christ to choose to resist all that stands against the heart and purposes of God.

4. Will you seek to follow the teachings of Jesus and apply them to your daily life?

I will. I will commit myself to learning more about Jesus and intentionally growing in my faith.

5. Do you understand and confess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

I do. And what I do not understand, I will explore, study and seek discernment so that I may grow in my faith.

6. Do you promise, according to God's grace, to always remain a faithful member of Jesus Christ's Church?

I do. As a follower of Jesus, I am the Church. By God's grace, I join a movement of God's Spirit to bring hope, forgiveness and love to the world by my words and my actions.

7. Will you be loyal to St. Paul's Church and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?

I will. I will honor my commitments to the Lord and to my sisters and brothers here at St. Paul's Church.

FOR GROW GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- 1. Read Acts 2:37-47. Imagine yourself in that early church context. How would you react to what happened? What elements about that first church experience speak into your life? Why?
- 2. Which of the vows of Church Membership are the most difficult for you personally? Why?
- 3. As you've listened to the message or as you read the Scripture passages, what is God bringing to your mind and heart? What do you want to do about it?

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