

SECTION 6

WHAT IS YOUR COMMITMENT?

What Is The Covenant?

To submit to the authority of the Scriptures

Psalm 119 | 2 Timothy 3:14-17 | 2 Peter 1:19-21

This sets us apart from everyone else in the world—we have a unified faith in the word of God and how it captures and presents the life of Jesus. We are committing to being the type of people that we say that we will be—those who live in accordance with the Scriptures. If the Bible leads us to live in a certain way, we will do that because they are authoritative in our lives, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and filled with the truth.

To pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practicing of spiritual disciplines

Luke 18:1 | Acts 17:11 | 1 Cor 9:24-27 | Eph 5:1-21 | 1 Thess 5:12-22

The life of a disciple must include practicing the way of Jesus. This is a part of experiencing the fullness of life with Christ that the church has practiced for 2000 years. As the church, we will teach and lead what this looks like and as members, we will practice and live this out.

To follow the command and example of Jesus by taking the step of baptism before my church community after conversion and participating in regular communion with the church.

Baptism does not save our souls, but Jesus submits to this practice to fulfill all righteousness. It is a marker that we are entering into a community, and in and of itself, its own form of membership into God's global, historical, and local church. This is a mutual commitment between the believer and the church.

To practice presence in weekly gatherings, gospel-centered formation, communal prayer, and acts of hospitality

Acts 2:42-47 | Hebrews 10:23-25 | Titus 3:14

This requires a reorientation of our lives to be present with individuals and the body. We prioritize an order in our lives that promotes physically, emotionally, and spiritually showing up to the gathering of God's people and in the lives of others.

To intentionally seek to help build a multi-ethnic and multi-generational community that will be both active in the church and in the world as agents of the Kingdom.

Acts 2:42-47 | Matthew 28:18-20

We must ask the question, “Am I present with people who are different than I am?” This is a commitment to make an intentional effort to practice presence with people who are different than you are.

To be active in God’s commandment to love God, love my neighbor as myself, and to be active in the great commission to make disciples of all nations.

As disciples, we covenant both to the community and to bringing this community into the world. We are called to bring people into the family of God. The practice of this is walking with people toward Jesus both in moments and over a lifetime.

To steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances. This includes regular tithing and offering, service and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful and voluntary.

Matthew 25:14-30 | Romans 12:1-2 | 2 Corinthians 8-9 | 1 Peter 4:10-11

The purpose for this is twofold. First, we are living out an individual calling to worship the Lord and trust him completely. In this, we experience the fullness of life with Jesus. In addition to this, we have a communal vision for the church. Our regular tithes develop a muscle of generosity that allow us to help the body when needs arise. We can support one another through practicing generosity.

To strive through the power of the Holy Spirit to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3

The call to the Christian is to look like and be like Christ. We do this practically in how we live out our faith and internally as we strive to have the mind of Christ. This is a part of the transformative process of our sanctification, not simply a modification of our behavior.

To take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

As we live, are the things that we do edifying to the body and glorifying to God? We live in ways that represent the bride of Christ. At times this looks like practicing restraint in order to guard the reputation of Christ.

To submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by receiving righteous and loving correction, that is aimed at repentance and restoration when approached biblically by fellow believers or the church.

Psalms 141:5 | Matthew 18:15-20 | 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 | Hebrews 12:5-11

Discipline is loving, if approached in kindness, humility, and truth. We are called to unity within the body and discipline is aimed at restoring relationship with God and others. It is an intimate practice designed to include only people who are able to help bring about restoration.

To practice biblical accountability when I have an issue, grievance, hurt or frustration with anyone in the body of Christ including the pastors/ elders, staff or other leaders. This means I will,

- *Avoid speaking with gossip, slander or judgement*
- *Present my grievance to the person(s) responsible and follow the guidelines of Matthew 18*
- *Willingly participate in the process of reconciliation in the hopes that the party that caused the grievance would confess, repent and work towards biblical reconciliation*

We understand that this is how we should engage in conflict with other people. We acknowledge that gossip and unresolved grievances will damage familial relationship, and we will treat this body of believers as a family. We will practice healthy and biblical conflict resolution.

To practice confession (to God and others), repentance, and seeking help when a sin has been committed.

Romans 8:13 | Colossians 3:5 | James 5:16 | 1 John 1:6-10

The enemy desires to keep things in the darkness. Confession brings to light that which is broken. We posture ourselves humbly to create an environment where confession and repentance are a regular practice for the believer.

To strive for unity and peace within the church through submission to Christ first and then to pastors/elders and other appointed leaders of the church.
Ephesians 4:1-3 | Hebrews 13:17 | 1 Peter 5:5

Ultimately, we say that we are submitting to Christ through his Word, his Spirit, and his appointed leaders within the church. There is mutual submission where believers are submitted to one another.

To hold the pastors/elders (those responsible for the handling of God's Word and the stewardship of the church's resources) accountable to the biblical standards of their role.

The privilege of being a part of the family of God. Every member has a role in shaping the way that we live and function as a family.

To notify a pastor or staff member if I am leaving LIFEGATE before the committed time and to seek another church where I can carry out the biblical responsibilities of a believer.

There are legitimate reasons to move on from a church community. It is the desire of this body to bless and affirm these decisions. If we are practicing all of the above commitments, this decision will be made based on good decisions.