

STONE'S THROW CHURCH

THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

BIBLICAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE ELDERS OF STONE'S THROW CHURCH

As shepherds and overseers of a local church, elders are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping, and caring for the corporate church body and her individual members. The following is a rather comprehensive overview of the requirements for elders as spelled out within the Scriptures.

The elders covenant ...

- To train and equip elders and deacons (including staff members who serve in these offices) according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- To prayerfully seek God's will for our church community and steward her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following the Spirit (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 whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4: 16; 2 Timothy 4: 1-5; Titus 2: 1).
- To equip the members of the church for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16).
- To be on guard against false teachers and teachings (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 1 :3-7; 1 John 4: 1).
- To lovingly exercise discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined and 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 and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated below (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3).

BIBLICAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBERS

As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to reflect the character of Christ through the pursuit of certain attitudes and actions and the rejection of others. The Scriptures refer to this reality as "living by the Spirit" (Romans 8). The requirements of this membership covenant are in no way intended as an addition to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, this document functions primarily as an accessible, yet non-exhaustive, explanation of what the Scriptures teach about the obedience that faith produces.

I covenant...

- To submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3: 14-17; 2 Peter 1: 19-21).
- To pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18: 1; Acts 17: 11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5: 1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-22).
- To follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church:
 - By being baptized if I have not received a valid baptism.
 - By regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through Communion.
- To regularly participate in the life of Stone's Throw Church by attending weekly services, engaging in biblical community, serving on a ministry team and serving those within and outside of this church (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Titus 3: 14).
- To steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances. This includes regular financial giving, 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).

- By God's grace 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). Believers should strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death, while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit. Below are a few examples of actions addressed in the Scriptures:
 - I will practice complete chastity unless married and, if married, complete fidelity within heterosexual and monogamous marriage. Complete chastity and fidelity means, among other things, that regardless of my marital status, I will pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, premarital sex and pornography (Romans 13: 11-14; 1 Corinthians 6: 15-20, 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8; Hebrews 13:4).
 - I will seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation at The Stone's Throw Church before pursuing divorce from my spouse (Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10: 1-12; Luke 16: 18; 1 Corinthians 7: 10-11; for the role of the church in the process of divorce, see Paul's concern for the resolution of legal matters within the assembly of the church in 1 Corinthians 6).
 - I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful behavior as the Bible dictates (Romans 1 :28-32, 13: 13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:3-18).
- To refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Romans 14: 14-23).
- 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).
- To submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by:
 - Following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another - the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.
 - Receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Psalm 141 :5; Matthew 18: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11).
- To do the following when I sin:
 - Confess my sin to God and to fellow believers.
 - Repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5: 16; 1 John 1 :6-10).
 - To submit to the elders and other appointed leaders of the church and will be diligent to strive for unity and peace within the Church (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).

CLASS REQUIREMENTS: *I have listened to and/or attended the membership classes and have completed all assignments (listening to the Basic Doctrine sermons online, reading through packet material).*

Member (Print Name and Sign Name—Families Can Use the Same Form)

Community Group Interviewer

Elder

Date