

# NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

## MEMBER COVENANT GUIDELINES

A covenant is an agreement, or a mutual undertaking. It could be between God and man, or between man and man. The “new” covenant in Heb. 9:15, or the “second” covenant in Heb.8:7 or the “better” covenant in Heb.7:22 is this agreement or mutual undertaking based on the death of Christ. We picked the name New Covenant Christian Community because we wanted to come together, agree together and work together all on the basis of the promise we have because of Christ’s death and resurrection. We believe the covenant we have with God is expressed in its fullness by the working out of covenant among the saints of the body of Christ.

This covenant has meaning when we can relate it to the following areas of commitment: commitment to God, to our fellow man and to the local body of Christ (church).

We feel these areas are important to consider before making a commitment to this local expression of the body of Christ.

A prerequisite to agreeing to these areas is that you believe God has called you to be a part of this particular body at this time in your life.

1. **COMMITMENT TO GOD** – We believe, in order to be committed to NC4 your first and principal commitment must be to God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and being.” (Matt.22:37)*

2. **COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER** – We believe that as you build relationships with other members of this body, a commitment to one another should be expressed in the acceptance of one another and helping each other in whatever way possible.

*“Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matt. 22:39)*

3. **COMMITMENT TO FELLOWSHIP** – We believe that a commitment to this body includes “not forsaking assembling together” (Heb. 10:25). This includes attendance at cell group meetings during the week, special ingatherings, retreats or conferences planned by NC4 and Sunday morning worship. We understand that attendance is contingent on work schedules, illness, etc., but every effort should be made to be at the gatherings of this body of Christ. We are all individual parts that make up the whole body. (1 Cor. 12)

4. **COMMITMENT TO TITHE** – We believe that an outworking of commitment to this body includes tithing (tithe means a tenth or 10%). We agree with the tithing principle as presented in Mal. 3:10 and Lev. 23:10. We also believe that, although the New Testament does not mention tithing specifically, there are enough references and promises concerning giving that would make it more than appropriate to include in this commitment. Jesus is looking for followers who are willing to give all, not just 10%. See Luke 6:38, 1Cor. 16:2 and 2 Cor. 9:6, 7. The 10% tithe is a starting point. In Acts 2 the Christians sold their property and possessions in order to help those in need. We’re not asking anyone to sell all

they have, but all of us should have an attitude that would allow us to do just that if the need should arise.

The tithe coming into NC4 goes for the support of the Levites (priests) who are in full time ministry, church expenses, those in need in the body and mission support.

5. **COMMITMENT TO SERVE** – We believe that everyone in the church should exhibit a servant’s heart. Jesus is our example; He came to be servant of all (Phil. 2:6-11). We need to have an attitude that embraces serving one another in practical ways (1 Cor. 12:15-24 & Eph. 6:7); as well as serving the church (1 Cor. 12:28) in whatever way we can.
6. **COMMITMENT TO COMMUNICATE** – We realize that one of the major problems in the Christian community is open, honest and effective communication. As a fellow brother and sister in this community we ask you to be sensitive to this issue. Be open and honest in your communications. Some examples:
  - a. Don’t talk about people if you have a problem with them; talk to them.
  - b. Have the freedom to come to the leadership with your views or for prayer.
  - c. Be an active listener during the teachings (listening is a form of communication).
  - d. If you make a public commitment to this church you have an obligation to communicate to the church when you decide to leave. This will give us the opportunity to pray for you, bless you and send you forth in the name of the Lord. This will eliminate any confusion and gossip on the part of the brethren and also result in everyone having a right spirit toward those leaving.

***Some communication related scriptures:***

Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 6:8, Matt. 5:37; Col. 4:6 and Col. 3:16

7. **COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH VISION** – We believe that those who commit to NC4 should embrace the church’s current vision. If you don’t know what it is, contact one of the elders or call the church office for a copy. It’s important that we are all working toward what we believe God is showing us at a particular time. “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Prov. 29:18). It’s not good enough to simply have a vision; we must commit ourselves to working toward seeing the vision become a reality.
8. **COMMITMENT TO EVANGELIZE** – We believe, that as a part of our Christian walk, there should be a constant desire within us to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the unsaved, through word and deed. This body is committed to the witnessing of the gospel both on an individual and corporate level. We encourage you to make yourself available to the Holy Spirit in this area and to go forth in His power to proclaim the gospel and to “stir up” the non-believer to faith in Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:8)
9. **COMMITMENT TO PRAYER** – We believe that everything that takes place in this body needs to be bathed in prayer. We are committed to pray for one another, for the church and for the lost. We ask that as another outworking of your commitment, you give yourself to prayer. See Rom. 12:12; James 5:16; 1Tim. 2:8; 1 Cor. 7:5; Phil. 4:6; & 1 Pet. 4:7

10. **COMMITMENT TO CHURCH AUTHORITY** – We believe that God has placed in the body, elders to watch over, guide and shepherd the flock (1 Pet. 5:2, 3). We ask that as you see the leadership in this body submitting themselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, you would be able to submit to them (1 Pet. 2:13 & Rom. 13:1). The elders of this church are working as a plurality and as such, are mutually submitted to each other. If you need further clarification in this area, please see one of the elders. It is important that you understand our leadership structure before making a commitment.

The current elders are: Jack Groblewski, Warren Moore, Tony Piergiovanni, Bob Rentler, Gene Wakeman, Eric Frank.

We understand that all of these commitment areas may not be working in your life presently, but if you can say “AMEN” to these areas, we believe God will honor that and with His grace and your desire they can be worked out in your life as you commit yourself to this local body of Christ.

## WELCOME TO NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

God bless you for your desire to become part of a local church.

The Elders

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*I have read and I understand the **Member Covenant Guidelines** listed above. By God’s grace, I can say “AMEN” to the guidelines. By my signature below, I am indicating my desire to become a Covenant Member of NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Rev. 12/08  
DOO: 5/24/95*