

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH *of Farmersville*

Affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT ADOPTED JULY 26, 2009

God established the church to change every member—especially me—into a Christ-like disciple to carry out the Great Commission. (Matthew 28: 19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 1:6) Because such transformation is impossible apart from being born again, I make the following two affirmations (which are prerequisite for church membership):

- That I have been born again, having personally repented of my sin before God; sought and received His forgiveness; believed upon Jesus Christ—crucified, buried, and resurrected—as the one-and-only Savior of all mankind; surrendered to Him as the master of my life; and identified myself publicly as a Christian. (Mark 8:38; John 14:6; Acts 3:19, 16:31; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 2:5)
- That, after having become a Christian as described above, I have received New Testament baptism as explained in this congregation’s statement of faith. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Peter 3:21-22)

I want to see God change my life according to His plan, and I need the help of the entire church body for that to happen. I am not perfect, and God will not be finished perfecting any of us until we get to Heaven. That is why, whatever commitments we make, we will need much love, grace, and gentleness to keep us together. (Proverbs 27:17; Ephesians 2:19-22; Philippians 1:6) As a member, in spite of my failures, I commit never to quit trying to live up to the following affirmations:

- To join with my fellow members in this congregation to seek God’s will in our common decision-making; to allow every member the privilege of seeking to influence the church in its pursuit of God’s will; to accept congregational decisions without grumbling; and to work to prevent division in the church. (Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 15:1-33; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 2:6; Philippians 2:14; Jude 19)
- To confess and repent of personal sin; to practice personal worship, prayer, and Bible study; to participate in corporate worship and Bible study with this congregation, except as prevented by illness, travel, necessary labor, or other serious incapacity; to join my fellow members in observance of the Lord’s Supper; to discover and use my spiritual gifts for the common good of the congregation; to seek the conversion of those who are lost; and to serve others in Christian ministry. (Mark 9:35; Luke 22:19; John 4:23-24; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8, 12:7; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 10:25; James 5:16; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 John 1:9)
- To treat other people as the Bible teaches me to treat them. (Matthew 22:37-40; Philippians 2:1-8)
- To practice biblical stewardship of my resources, including the faithful support of this congregation. (Malachi 3:8-12; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12; 1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Peter 4:10)
- To pursue brotherly love in my relationships with other members of this congregation, to aid them in times of difficulty, to pray for their spiritual and physical needs, to encourage them toward spiritual growth, to resolve conflict with them as the New Testament teaches, to pursue peace with all, and to be eager to forgive fellow members of this congregation. (Matthew 18:15-35; John

13:35; Romans 12:10, 14:19; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, 13:1-13; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:32; Hebrews 10:24-25, 12:14, 13:1; James 5:13-18)

- To respect the spiritual leadership of pastors (also called elders or overseers in the Bible) and the service of deacons as taught in the Bible. (1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17-19; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5)
- To keep my speech and my conduct pure and unstained by the world, pursuing biblical morality as a consistent lifestyle (James 1:27; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Ephesians 4:29). In particular, I commit to pursue biblical holiness with regard to those sins that pose the gravest dangers in this age, including my commitments:
 - To employ chemical substances such as alcohol and drugs only as informed by the teachings of the Bible, wise medical counsel, and the dictates of the law (Proverbs 23:29-35; 1 Corinthians 5:11, 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Timothy 5:23).
 - To flee sexual immorality; to shun pornography; to dress modestly; to reserve sexual activity solely for one man and one woman united in marriage; and not to initiate a divorce, except optionally if wronged by an adulterous spouse. (Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 20:13, 15-16; Psalm 101:3; Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 5:28, 19:1-12; 1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:10-16; Ephesians 5:3; Philippians 4:8; 1 Timothy 2:9; Hebrews 13:4)
 - To protect and defend the lives of my children from the moment of their conception; to abstain from abusive violence in my home; to practice biblical discipline of my children; to obey my parents so long as I am a child and to honor them always; and to encourage every member of my household to learn about and serve God. (Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-16; Proverbs 13:24, 22:15; Colossians 3:19-21; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Hebrews 12:6)
 - To practice justice and compassion toward all people, including the poor, the sick, the disabled, widows, and orphans. (Leviticus 19:32; Proverbs 14:31; Isaiah 1:17, 47:6; Luke 14:13; Galatians 2:10; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17)
 - To conduct all business in honesty and integrity, practicing the Golden Rule in my dealings with others. (Deuteronomy 25:13-15; Matthew 5:37, 7:12; James 5:1-6)
- To pursue the growth of the fruit of the Spirit in my life. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Because I am a sinner, I know that I will not fulfill the terms of this covenant perfectly. Nevertheless, I affirm the ambitions of this covenant as my own, and I commit always to try to fulfill its terms. As I fail to live up to this covenant, I commit to yield to correction, to seek forgiveness and reconciliation, and to turn from my sin. (James 1:19-25)

Because my fellow members are also sinners, I know that they will not fulfill the terms of this covenant perfectly. Nevertheless, I commit to encourage them to pursue spiritual growth by following this covenant. As they fail to live up to this covenant, I commit—as much as it depends upon me—to correct and restore them in gentleness and humility, never refusing forgiveness and reconciliation in the face of repentance. (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20)

If I find myself unwilling even to try to fulfill this covenant, I commit to remove myself from this congregation. If relocation outside the community prevents me from fulfilling this covenant, I commit to unite with another congregation and to continue to pursue growth as a Christian.

I enter into this covenant voluntarily. I believe that attempting to follow this covenant will benefit me spiritually, so I ask my fellow members to interpret this covenant, apply it to my life, and live a life of mutual spiritual accountability with me.