



# HARBOR CHURCH

## Covenant

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### **PREAMBLE**

After the Apostle Peter preached on Pentecost, the people were “cut to the heart” and asked the Apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). Peter instructed them to “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Those new believers who “received the word” were then “baptized” (Acts 2:41). That newly formed church in Jerusalem then “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). This commitment among that early congregation made the invisible church a visible church. Following this pattern, we covenant together in submission to God’s sovereign call to create a visible and local church for himself.

Therefore, having been born again by the Spirit of God and drawn to faith and repentance in the Lord Jesus Christ, we now, relying on God’s grace, enter into a covenant with one another as Christ’s body.

### **COMMITMENTS**

**We** will seek to magnify the cross of Christ in all that we do, knowing that it is by the grace of God alone that our sins have been forgiven, our old nature put to death, and we have been raised to new life in Christ. (Gal. 6:14)

**We** will seek, by divine aid, to live our lives according to the Word of God, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts and striving to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this world as we wait for the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Gal. 5:22-24; Titus 2:12; 1 Pet. 1:14)

**We** will strive to cultivate healthy habits of grace, such as faithfulness in the Word of God and prayer, studying the Scriptures privately and corporately, and praying for ourselves and others. (Psalm 119:11, Phil 4:6, Eph. 6:18)

**We** will endeavor to train our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, and will seek to walk in a way that adorns the gospel of Christ before our family, friends, and neighbors. (Prov. 22:6, Eph. 6:4, 1 Peter 2:11-12)

**We** will submit ourselves to God’s Word as the final arbiter on all issues and embrace this church’s Confession of Faith as a trustworthy summary of biblical teaching. (2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Peter 2:2)

**We** will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but will seek to show the joy of new life in Christ by active participation in the life of the church, through hearing the

Word of God, observing the ordinances, and by faithful attendance to worship, all to the glory of God. (Heb. 10:25, 1 Cor. 11:26)

**We** will use our spiritual gifts in God-honoring ways to seek the salvation of the lost, to serve and build up the body, working together to sustain its worship, discipline, and doctrines (Eph. 4:11-16, Matt.18:17, 1 Cor. 5:13)

**We** will give cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations. (1 Tim. 5:17-18, 1 Cor. 9:14, Gal. 6:6, Matt. 28:19, Luke 12:33, 2 Cor. 9:7, Prov. 3:9)

**We** will submit to the leadership of the elders as those who will give an account for watching over our souls, and be bound by this church's covenant, constitution, and confession of faith in all matters pertaining to membership and church discipline. (Heb. 13:17, 1 Thess. 5:12-13)

**We** will seek to exemplify a true Christian community, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep, caring for one another, admonishing one another, and bearing each other's burdens. (Rom. 12:15, 1 Thess. 5:14, Phil. 2:4, Col. 3:16, Gal. 6:2)

**We** will pursue unity and peace in the church by walking together in love and in the Spirit, and by avoiding bitterness, gossip, anger, and hurtful speech. (Eph. 4:3; Gal. 5:16, 25; Eph. 4:29, 31)

**We** will strive for kindness to one another, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven us, and when we have sinned against another or have been sinned against, we will seek biblical reconciliation. (Eph. 4:1-2, Luke 17:3, Col. 3:13, 1 Thess. 5:11, 1 Pet. 1:22, Matt. 18:15-17)

**We** will, upon moving from this place, unite, with a church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. (Heb. 10:23-25)

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### **BENEDICTION**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

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Signature

Date

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Printed Name

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Elder

Date