

THE SPURGEON FELLOWSHIP



INLAND NORTHWEST COOPERATIVE
www.inlandnorthwestcooperative.org

OCTOBER 30, 2025

KYLE SCHWAHN

Can you affirm ITC's Confession of Faith, and commit to the membership covenant?

Yes No Unsure

If your answer is no or unsure, please explain:

Are you giving faithfully and cheerfully to the support of the church and the advancement of the gospel?

Yes No Unsure

If your answer is no or unsure, please explain:

Are you in agreement with ITC's convictions regarding biblical sexuality?

Yes No Unsure

If your answer is no or unsure, please explain:

Are you in agreement with ITC's convictions regarding divorce and remarriage?

Yes No Unsure

If your answer is no or unsure, please explain:

Are you in agreement with ITC's convictions regarding the equality and distinctiveness of men and women?

Yes No Unsure

If your answer is no or unsure, please explain:

Your signature: _____

Elder/pastor: _____ Date: _____

Comments from Elder/pastor:

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OUR SPEAKER

Kyle Schwahn has served as pastor of Indian Trail Church in Spokane, Washington, since 2007. He is the co-founder and serves as the vice-president of the Inland Northwest Cooperative. He is married to Melissa, and they have three daughters and one son-in-law.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

10:00 am Welcome & Worship

10:15 am Session One

11:15 am Session One Q&A

11:45 pm Catered Lunch

12:45 pm Session Two

1:45 pm Session Two Q&A

2:00 pm Closing Remarks

The Expression

The Essence

Instructions: At the end of the Membership class, please fill out the information below.
Turn your paperwork in to the elder who taught the class, or drop it off later at the ITC office. Someone from our elder team will set up a time to meet with you.

Your name: _____ Date _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
Email: _____
Birthdate: _____ Anniversary: _____
Occupation and place of employment: _____

Marital Status (circle one):
Single Married Divorced Divorced/Remarried Widowed Separated

Children:
Name _____ Birthdate _____
Name _____ Birthdate _____
Name _____ Birthdate _____
Name _____ Birthdate _____

How long have you attended ITC?

What was the last church that you regularly attended?

Have you been baptized since your conversion?
Yes No Unsure
If your answer is no or unsure, please explain:

Have you ever been under church discipline?
Yes No Unsure
If your answer is yes or unsure, please explain:

Part 3: Specifics at ITC**When we gather (The first day of the week)...**

- Teaching (teach the word)
- Prayer (pray the word)
- Scripture Reading (hear the word)
- Singing (sing the word)
- Mutual Encouragement (minister the word)
- Baptism/Lord's Table (see the word)
- Giving (support the spread of the word)

When we Scatter (The Rest of the Week)...

- Hospitality
- Discipling Relationships
- Home Groups
- Prayer Groups
- Ministering Together

How the Church Functions

- Members
- Elders
- Deacons

ITC Confession of Faith**ITC Doctrinal and Practical Characteristics**

- Reformed
- Baptist
- One Assembly
- In Cooperation
- Complementarian
- Biblical and Historical in our view of Sexuality and Gender
- Specific in our approach to Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

Membership Covenant**Where to go from Here?****The Effects**

The Spurgeon Fellowship with Aaron Menikoff March 12, 2026 at Indian Trail Church



Aaron has pastored at Mount Vernon Baptist Church since June 2008 after completing his Master of Divinity in Biblical and Theological Studies and his Ph.D. in American Church History from Southern Seminary.

Prior to pastoral ministry, Aaron worked as a legislative assistant to the late U.S. Senator Mark O. Hatfield. After leaving his career in politics, he went on staff and served as an elder at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. While in seminary, Aaron served as an elder and interim

pastor at Third Avenue Baptist Church.

Aaron is the organizer and host of *Feed My Sheep*, an annual conference for pastors and church leaders in the Atlanta area. He also serves on the administrative team of the Greater Atlanta Baptist Network, where he leads a monthly pastors' fellowship, and is a founding board member of the Association of Churches for Missions & Evangelism

In addition to pastoral ministry, Aaron is an Adjunct Professor of Church History at Reformed Theological Seminary (Atlanta), the author of *Character Matters* (Moody, 2020), and *Politics and Piety: Baptist Social Reform in America, 1770-1860* (Pickwick, 2014), the co-author of *Prioritizing Missions in the Church* (Crossway, 2025), and co-host of the *Island Idylls* podcast.

Aaron will be speaking on character in pastoral ministry. Pastors are called to be faithful, to have exemplary character, and to love Jesus. Without faithfulness, their ministry ends up harming others rather than helping them. Churches need pastors with sound doctrine *and* a sound life.

Registration will open in January 2026. We hope you can join us!

What is the gospel? (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

What are the two functions of the gospel?

- Salvation
- Sanctification

What is the church?

- The Gospel Creates and Defines the Church
- The Gospel Sustains the Church

Part 1: What is the church like? (Metaphors)

- City on a hill (Matthew 5:14-16)
- Priesthood (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9; Revelation 1:5-6)
- Building/Temple (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:9-17; 1 Peter 2:4)
- Pillar and Support (buttress) of the Truth (1 Timothy 3:15)
- Bride (Ephesians 5:22-33; 2 Corinthians 11:2)
- Body (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12)
- Dough (1 Corinthians 5)
- Household / Family / Race (1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 Peter 2:9)
- Flock (John 10:1-30; Acts 20:17-35; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:1-4)

Part 2: How should the church live together?

Love Like a Family

- Brotherly Love
- Share/Provide for needs
- Rejoice and weep together
- Warmth and affection

Love on Purpose

- Build one another up
- Pray for one another
- Meet together

Love through Conflict

- Don't be mean
- Defer on matters of conscience
- Confront in love
- Commit to Peace, Reconciliation, and Forgiveness

1. We regularly invite and encourage non-members to go through our membership class
2. We regularly offer membership classes (every other month, more in the Fall)
3. If a person wants to pursue membership, he or she fills out the membership application given in the membership class
4. An ITC elder meets with the potential member
5. The ITC elder then writes a brief recounting of the person's testimony of conversion and a recommendation to the whole elder team
6. All the elders approve the potential member (or share any concerns which may slow or halt the process)
7. We (elders) send a write-up and picture of the potential members to the whole congregation (in print) two weeks prior to our members' meeting.
8. At our members' meeting, we briefly introduce the potential members to the congregation and ask them to share a piece of their story/testimony.
9. At the end of the members' meeting, we lead the potential members outside while the congregation votes to affirm them as ITC members.
10. We publicly welcome newly affirmed members in the Sunday morning service following the vote.
11. We immediately print new directories, which include all ITC members, and distribute them to the congregation
12. An ITC elder reaches out to the new member one and three months after they were welcomed into the body to check in
13. The new member engages in the life of the body of Christ until the Lord moves them on from us.

Shepherding with Influence Conference
March 28, 2026
Sovereign Hope Church
Missoula, MT



ChatGPT can answer life's biggest questions. Online therapists can read their hearts without ever seeing their faces. Podcasts and streaming content can affirm their goals with the promise of satisfaction. In an age where influence is everywhere, where does that leave the local pastor? While you might not be an expert (there's an app for that...), you are their pastor, uniquely called and equipped to bring the influence of the gospel to bear on everything from the mundane to the monumental.

The *Shepherding with Influence* conference, with Dave Kiehn as the keynote speaker, will examine a gospel that makes us both confident and capable of leading our people in daily faithfulness.

Dave Kiehn (MDiv, PhD, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) is the Director of Ministry for the Americas for the Pillar Network, the author of multiple books, and currently the Lead Pastor of Park Baptist Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. When he's not caring for his flock in Rock Hill, Dave is strengthening churches and encouraging pastors in the United States and internationally to embrace biblical faithfulness and theological clarity.

Cost:
 Shepherding Seminars are free to pastors/elders and other men who are either in positions of leadership in a local church or aspiring to leadership in the local church.

Register:
<https://sovhope.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3155398>



INC Regional Pastors' Fellowships:

Missoula, MT: December 18th, 12-3 pm
 Spokane, WA: January 15th, 12-3 pm

1. Solidify your own clarity and conviction about membership
2. Continue living as a faithful member, BUT...
3. Study about membership with your elders/staff/leaders to begin instilling convictions rather than giving directives.
4. Publicly and regularly teach and apply the essence of membership
5. Use the word member(s)

Membership Statement	Current Reality	Difficulty of Change	Assessment Score
I consistently notice and publicly celebrate and encourage manifestations of meaningful membership within our church			
Our church’s membership class biblically motivates and prepares potential members to live a life of faithful membership			
Our church has, and regularly uses, a membership covenant that expresses God’s main aims for our life together			
Our church’s membership process well prepares a potential member for fruitful relationships and life within our church			
The congregation (of existing members) is involved in affirming and welcoming new members into our church			
Membership serves as the entry point to a person’s engagement with the body of Christ at our church			
Our pastors and staff serve mainly to equip the saints for the work of ministry rather than to do the ministry themselves			

Carefully read through each statement below, asking how true this is of you or your church right now. For each statement, give a score of 1-10 (1 = not true at all; 10 = completely true) in the first column entitled “Current Reality.”

Then, carefully work through each statement a second time, asking how hard it would be to bring about change in that particular area. Again, for each statement, give a score of 1-10 (1 = not difficult at all; 10 = very difficult) in the first column entitled “Difficulty of Change.”

Add the two scores together in the third column entitled “Assessment Score.” While still considering the pathway laid out in the second session, the lower scores will also help you know where you can invest your time and efforts for the biggest impact in your specific context.

Membership Statement	Current Reality	Difficulty of Change	Assessment Score
I am biblically convinced of meaningful membership and feel ready to lead our church toward growth in this area			
I’m faithfully and intentionally living as a church member myself and am comfortable including others as I do			
The key leaders in our church hold the same deep conviction about membership that I do, and are ready to grow in this regard			
I consistently teach about church membership and regularly apply the Scriptures to the corporate life of the body			
When I teach our church publicly, they often hear me use the word <i>member(s)</i> to express a normal, faithful life of discipleship			

6. Celebrate and encourage what already IS

7. Make your membership class count

8. Adopt and use a church covenant

9. Make your membership process meaningful

10. Make it clear that membership does not equal your membership process.

11. Make the body known to the body

12. Make membership the doorway to life in your church

13. De-Program ministry in your church

14. Value attendance the way the Bible does

15. Hold members' meetings that...



The Inland Northwest Cooperative seeks to further the work of the gospel in the Inland Northwest by planting churches, training future pastors, and cooperating for local outreach. INC will strengthen the health of its churches by providing doctrinal accountability, ministerial fellowship, and support for churches in need.

Membership in the INC

As churches gather around the INC's theological distinctives, we want to support healthy pastoral work and advance church-planting initiatives. To accomplish this, churches and pastors have the opportunity to join in as members of the INC.

Associate Members

Jason Upchurch (Redeemer Bible Church, Deer Park, WA)

Tyler Velin (Sovereign Hope Church, Missoula, MT)

Luke Rhee (His Place Church, Post Falls, ID)

Carey Hughes (Christ the Redeemer, Spokane, WA)

Sam Kraemer (Harvest Liberty Lake Church, Liberty Lake, WA)

Aaron Baddeley (Princeton Avenue Church, Spokane, WA)

Collin Skipper (Southside Christian Church, Spokane, WA)

Shane Sanders (The Journey Christian Fellowship, Missoula, MT)

Full Members

Dave Farley (Grace Christian Fellowship North, Mead, WA)

Kyle Schwahn (Indian Trail Church, Spokane, WA)

Dan Jarms (Faith Bible Church, Spokane, WA)

Scott Liddell (Fourth Memorial Church, Spokane, WA)

Noah Lee (Grace Gospel Church, Missoula, MT)

Barry Smith (Connection Point Church, Spokane, WA)

Brandon Herron (First Baptist Church, Sandpoint, ID)

Marc Curnutt (New Creation Fellowship, Spokane, WA)

Paul Funchess (Trinity Church, Spokane Valley, WA)

Dave Hammond (Three Crosses Church, Spokane, WA)

Brett Sweet (Grace Christian Fellowship Central, Spokane, WA)

For more information on the Inland Northwest Cooperative, visit

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