

NRBC Membership Covenant

Church membership is a covenant made between an individual and a local congregation. Members of Nansemond River Baptist Church agree to participate in the mission and vision of the church, affirm the core beliefs and core values of the church, and to seek to live a life that reflects the core competencies of the church. Likewise, the congregation commits to accepting the individual into the life of the church, equipping the individual for service within the church, and holding the individual accountable in his or her walk with Christ.

- ❖ We promise to actively participate in the **Mission** of NRBC:
 - Our Mission is to make disciples that make disciples.

- ❖ We promise to actively participate in the **Vision** of NRBC:
 - We exist to glorify God and exalt Jesus by reaching up through worship and prayer, reaching in through discipleship and fellowship, and reaching out through evangelism and ministry.

- ❖ We affirm six **Core Beliefs** which summarize our statement of faith contained in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. These six Core Beliefs are:
 1. We believe the Bible is God's Word. Because the Bible is God's Word, it is completely true, wholly authoritative, and must be proclaimed.
 2. We believe there is one, true living God. He is one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He is the creator and sustainer of all creation, perfect in His being and purposes, and deserving of all worship and praise.
 3. We believe all people are created in the image of God. God loves all people as the crowning work of His creation. However, everyone is born separated from God by sin. The sin nature that we all possess prevents us from doing anything on our own that could restore that relationship.
 4. We believe salvation is by grace through faith in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ alone. Salvation makes sinful man right with God, brings us into his family, and continues throughout the believer's life to make him or her into the likeness of Christ. All true believers will persevere to the end and will be rewarded with eternal life.
 5. We believe the church is both universal and local. All believers are placed by the Holy Spirit into the universal church upon coming to faith in Christ. The local church is an autonomous, local expression of God's family with a clear mission. The local church is led and served by the Biblical offices of pastor/elder and deacon. The two ordinances of the church are believers baptism and the Lord's Supper.

6. We believe God established the family as the foundational institution of human society. Marriage between one man and one woman for life is the cornerstone of God's design for the family. Children are a blessing from the Lord and should be taught the Word of God in the home by example and instruction.

❖ We affirm six **Core Values** which serve as guiding principles for what we value and prioritize. Each Core Value is driven by one of our six Core Beliefs. These six Core Values are:

1. We value expositional preaching in our corporate gatherings, the systematic teaching of God's Word in small groups, and the personal study and application of Scripture by all believers.
2. We value worship and prayer and seek to glorify God both corporately and individually.
3. We value every human life and will demonstrate God's love to all people at all times while giving special support to those in need including the unborn, the orphan, and the widow.
4. We value the gospel and its centrality to the life and mission of all believers and the unifying message of our church as we seek to proclaim the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in our community and around the world.
5. We value a diverse, multi-generational congregation, led by a plurality of elders and served by faithful deacons, which is driven to accomplish the mission of making disciples together.
6. We value marriage and family; we will work to honor marriages, support families, partner with parents to disciple their children, and encourage singles in their commitment to Christ.

❖ We promise to actively seek Christian growth by evaluating our lives according to six **Core Competencies** to see if they are marked by faithfulness and growth in each area. These six Core Competencies are:

1. In WORSHIP through passionate participation in corporate singing, cheerful and sacrificial giving to support the ministries and mission of the church, and active learning when the Bible is being preached.
2. In PRAYER through consistent intercession for the needs of fellow believers as well as the lost in our community and around the world and heartfelt praise and thanksgiving to God.

3. In DISCIPLESHIP through significant engagement in a small group, learning to read, study, and obey the Bible, and identifying my spiritual gifts and using them to strengthen the church.
 4. In FELLOWSHIP through developing meaningful relationships and partnering together to care for and love others within my church.
 5. In EVANGELISM through growing in compassion for those who do not know Christ and cultivating relationships with the lost and intentionally seeking opportunities to verbally share the gospel.
 6. In MINISTRY through caring for and participating in meeting the tangible needs of those in my community and around the world.
- ❖ Should our lives not reflect the above commitments, we promise to respond in repentance and Christian character to the biblical practice of church discipline by other church members, the elders, or the congregation. Also, we promise that if we leave NRBC, we will diligently seek to unite with another Church where we can continue to carry out the mission of God.