



members covenant

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

–Romans 12:4-5

Being a member of Live the Life Church is really about being part of a family. “We are a community of regenerated believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. In obedience to Scripture we organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical sacraments of baptism and Communion, are unified by the Spirit, are disciplined for holiness, and scatter to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God’s glory and our joy.” **“We love God passionately, we love each other unconditionally and we love the lost relentlessly.”**

Who is the Church...

The Bible paints a clear picture that the Church exists to display the glory of God. We believe that our precious Jesus Christ is the head of the Church (Col 1:18, Eph 1:22, 1 Cor 11). That the church of Jesus Christ is the Universal Church (i.e., all believers, everywhere) but that the Universal Church is solely made up of specific expressions, the local Church (i.e., a particular group of believers in a particular locale) (Acts 20, 1 Tim 3, 1 Cor 12). In the New Testament there is no such person as a Christian who is not a church member. Conversion was described as ‘the Lord adding to the Church’. There is no spiritual drifting!

Who are the members...

Although non-Christians, pre-Christians, visitors and guests are MOST welcome to fellowship with us, there must be a clear distinction of who is PART of the church and who is not (1 Cor 14:23, Phil 1:1, Acts 5:13). We believe that members of Live the Life church, have specific gifts, functions and ministries, that these ‘individual specific’ works of service, God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph 2:10, 4:12). In order for our church to be healthy, it is essential that our members each do their parts well (1 cor 12:12). God has placed us in this City of Hermanus, at this time of our lives, for this very reason (Acts 17:26-27).

Why is Covenant important...

A covenant is a promise that is between two or more parties for the performance of some action by which we obligate ourselves in such a way that it is not dependant on the faithfulness of the other (Ezek 20:44, Hos 2:18-20, 2 Tim 2:13). Although this Covenant focuses specifically on the individual members and the elders, it is primarily a promise made to God as a commitment to His Glory and the good of His Sons bride! When we as individual members make this promise, it unifies us. Amos 3:3 asks how we can walk together unless we are in agreement. In this place of unity the Lord **COMMANDS** blessing! (Psalm 133)

Live the Life church covenant includes...

1 Statement of faith

2 Statement of biblical doctrine

3 the obligations of the elders of Live the Life church to the members of Live the Life

4 the obligations of the members to Live the Life church body

Statement of faith...

- I am a Christian saved from the eternal wrath of God by faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through his death and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life (John 3:16-18, Rom 3:23-26)
- I believe Jesus Christ is exactly who he claimed to be (Isa. 53:6; Matt. 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:70; John 4:25-26; 6:29; 8:58; 11:25-27; 14:6-7; 15:5).
- I have repented of my sins and have been made a new creation in Christ (1 John 1:9; 2 Cor. 5:17).
- In obedience to Scripture, I have been baptized to personally identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and to publicly demonstrate my commitment as a disciple of Jesus (Col. 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21).

Statement of biblical doctrine ...(Although a full understanding and the ability to articulate these beliefs is not required, the open rejection of any one of these beliefs disqualifies one from membership in Live the Life church.

- I agree with the core beliefs of Live the Life Church that are expressed in the doctrinal statement below, (also available at the church office or at www.livethelife.org.za).
 - that the Scriptures are true, authoritative & sufficient (Ps 19:7-11; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
 - that there is only one God (Deut 6:4; Is 45:5-6; Is 46:9-10; John 17:3; 1 Cor 8:4-6; 1 Tim 2:5).
 - that the Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God; and that the Father is neither the Son nor the Holy Spirit, the Son is neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor Son (Gen 1:26; Ps 45:6-7; 110:1; Matt 3:13-17; 28:17-20; 1 Cor 12:4-6).
 - that I am, along with all humanity (Christ excluded), by birth and action a sinner (Gen 6:5; Ps 51:5; Jer 17:9; Rom 3:23; 5:8, 12-21; 7:18; Eph 2:1-3).
 - that the deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual (Gen 2:15-17; 3:19; Rom 5:12; 6:23; James 1:14-15).
 - that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin and is both fully God and fully human (Matt 1:20; Luke 2:52; John 1:1-4, 14; Col 1:15-20; Heb 1:1-3).
 - that Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin (John 1:29; 10:1-18; Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 15:1-4; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18).
 - that Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead (Matt 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 1:20-21:25; 1 Cor 15:12-34).
 - that Jesus Christ physically ascended into heaven and will one day physically return (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess 4:16; Heb 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Rev 1:7).
 - in a future physical resurrection of the dead. Those who trust in Jesus Christ alone will be raised to eternal reward. Those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal punishment (i.e. a literal hell) (Matt 25:31-46; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15).

- that only by trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can I be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy (John 3:18, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom 3:21-26; 1 Tim 2:5-6).
 - in the eternal security and assurance of believers, that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37–40; 10:27–30 Rom 8:1, 38, 39; 1 Cor 1:4–8; 1 Peter 1:5). We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for the flesh (Rom 13:13, 14; Gal 5:13; Titus 2:11–15).
 - that the baptism with the Holy Spirit follows the salvation experience and is evidenced (but not in all cases) by speaking in untaught languages. (Acts 19:2-6, 10:45-47)
 - the Holy Spirit indwells believers and guides and comforts them through distributing gifts of the Spirit, and leads believers to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, Gal 5:22-23).
 - the gifts of Christ and of the Holy Spirit in operation are essential to the ministry of the church, and are given as believer's desire and as Christ and the Holy Spirit intend (Eph 4:11-13, 1 Cor 12:8-11).
 - in prayer, i.e. believers talking with God at specific times corporately and all the time individually, to line up with God's will and to receive what is requested from Him (Eph 6:18).
 - the company of the called-out ones, the church, is the community where all believers join together like a loving family to pursue the work of the ministry of Jesus Christ (Col 3:15-17, Heb 10:24-25).
 - in the Lord's Supper, called Communion or breaking of bread, where bread and the cup are symbols of remembering Jesus' sacrifice, and for self examination and thanksgiving (1 Cor 11:23-28)
- I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace; I will adhere to the elder's interpretation of Scripture on primary theological issues, and I will not be divisive over secondary issues (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17).
 - I agree that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters (Is. 55:11; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:15-16; Heb. 4:12).
 - I understand that Live the Life Church's doctrine is also communicated and specified through various channels, such as sermons, published materials and various courses.

The obligations of the elders of Live the Life church to the members of Live the Life

- We covenant that the elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5).
- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in grace, truth and love as well as praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14)
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
- We covenant to equip the members of the church for the work of ministry (Eph 4:11-13)
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12).

The obligations of the members to Live the Life church body... (These obligations or requirements are in no way anything 'additional' to the scriptures, they merely serve as a summary of what Scripture teaches about the obedience that faith produces).

- I have read and understood the Live the Life Church doctrinal statement and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to

preserve unity and peace (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17).

- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps 119; 2Tim 3:16-17).
- I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship with Jesus will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, service to those inside and outside of the church, and a life that glorifies Jesus (Ps. 105:1-2; Ps. 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3).
- I will follow the command and example of Jesus Christ by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church, namely baptism and Communion.
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Rom. 12:1-8; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:7-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family (Heb. 13:17).
- I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise. When sin is evident in another, to follow the biblical procedures of discipline in the hope of repentance and restoration. (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5 8; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25).
- I agree to refrain from such activities the Scriptures would deem foolish (Romans 14:14-23).
- I agree to take seriously the responsibility to Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Cor 8:1-13)
- I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I could live a new life (2 Cor. 5:17); I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication (Job 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4); I will preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation at Live the Life before even considering divorce (Matthew 19:1-12, Mark 10:1-12, Luke 16:18, 1 Cor 7:10-11). I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, my pastors, and my conscience dictate (1 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:19-21).
- I agree that when I sin in such a manner, to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10).

My commitment to the mission of Live the Life Church...

I understand that Live the Life Church lives as full throttle disciples of Jesus Christ with a burning zeal to love God passionately, love each other unconditionally and love the lost relentlessly. I have read the members covenant and commit to live out this mission fully. I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Live the Life and is an acknowledgement of my submission to the elders of this Church. I will commit to notify the elders if at any point I no longer meet these obligations. I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to partner with Live the Life Church.

New Member Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date _____