Deacon Oliver Matthews
Chairman of Diaconate Ministry

Sister Barbara J. Jones
Chairperson of Trustee Ministry

Deacon Rhonda E. Chapman-Reyes
Director of Christian Education

BEREAN Baptist Church

Sister Deborah Eubanks
Superintendent of Sunday School

Sister Veronica G. Stovall
Church Administrator

Deacon Robert English
Church Sexton

Reverend Dr. Michael W. Couch, Pastor

Membership Agreement

"Present your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." **Romans 12:1-2**

As believers in Christ, Christians, we are members of the household of faith **(Ephs. 2:19)** and called to function, participate, and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member does its part well and diligently. A healthy Church requires the same: members who are sacrificially committed and well equipped to do the work of service that God has prepared in advance for us to do **(Ephs. 2:10, 4:12)**. Berean Baptist Church holds its members in high regard; we expect them to lead as ministers and missionaries of the Gospel to the culture we live in. God in His sovereignty has placed us in this city and this community for a reason **(Acts 17:26-27)**. At the Berean Church we believe in the forgiveness of sins as we repent before God, baptism by water, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and living Holy Lives before God. Our trust deed states that we are to make disciples by the example of our demonstration of faith in Jesus Christ. We are to strengthen the community and congregation through the disciplines of our faith. We do this by: holding public meetings of prayer, Bible Study, praise and worship, building up and assisting others in our community and congregation, by training members to become disciples, evangelism, relationships, fellowships, moral conduct becoming as a saved disciple of Christ, and academic learning, providing spiritual preachers and presenters, musical and dramatic production; offering guidance in Biblical principles relating to marriage, business and social relationships. In requesting membership, you are agreeing to help aid the Berean Baptist Church achieve these aims.

Being a member of the Berean Church is really about being a part of a family. All members are disciples or in the learning process of becoming a disciple unified by their (our) identity in Christ. This unity is expressed and must be expressed in the way we collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving others. People who enter into membership with their local communities are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the leaders are covenanted to assist members: to love, live, and lead, provide counseling and aid, pray for, teach, and guide them.

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to anyone without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4:8-10

What is Membership?

Membership is the promise by which we commit ourselves to one another. Berean membership includes a statement of faith, the obligations of the Berean Church to its members, and the obligation of members to the Berean Church. Though membership does define relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to His glory and His bride, the church **(Eph. 5:25)**.

The Commitment of the Berean Church to its members or more accurately the Commitment of Berean Church to its members.

As you become a member we commit ourselves to you. Specifically, we commit to your pastoral care; to helping you to grow spiritually and to use your gifts for the glory of God and the building of the church. As leaders we have a responsibility to care for your soul.

- **We covenant that your elders (Pastors & Leaders) will meet the criteria assigned to them in the scriptures (1 Tim 3:1-13, 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).** To faithfully lead and serve the Church of Jesus Christ.
- **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 Pet. 5:1-5).** Part of the responsibility of leadership is to seek God's face and listen to His direction for the Berean Church as it is birth from the Pastoral Vision.
- **We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service. (Eph. 4:11-13) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:15).** Shepherds care for those under their care and seek their best.
- **We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal.6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).** We believe in the Word of God in its entirety and will use it as the basis for all our teaching and wisdom.
- **We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).** The New Testament warns regularly about this. Our responsibility is to test and weigh all teachings in the light of scripture.

- **We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).** We want everyone to grow in their walk with Christ – and we also understand that occasionally this may mean discipline when necessary to help achieve this growth.
- **We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of the church membership and discipleship (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12).** As leaders we need to demonstrate by our behavior, language and practice the way all members should live. We are called to **SET AN EXPAMPLE.**

My Commitment to Berean Church as a member

I have read and agree with the statement of faith and I commit to the Mission, Vision, and Values of the Berean Church: namely to be a visible church to a city in need of God's love and grace. I will strive to live out this vision and mission and values as diligently as possible, faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, and that my identity would be in Him, my worship would be for Him, my fellowship would be through Him, and my interaction with the culture would be for His glory.

- **I will attend/come to church regularly. (Heb. 3:13).**
    - It is important to build relationships and meeting together regularly helps achieve this.
- **I will subscribe to my faith in Jesus Christ.**
    - Doctrines define who we are.
- **I will become involved, where possible, in a midweek study. (Acts 2:46-47)**
    - This is our first base for pastoral care and where strong friendships and relationships are built and where trust and accountability can be developed.
- **I will seek where possible to get involved in at least one ministry in the church (1Cor. 12:7).**
    - We want everyone to be a part in the building of the Berean Church in all ways.
- **I will care for others in the church, both members and guest. (1 Pet. 4:8)**
    - We are a part of the body and need to support and care for others in the church and community.
- **I will maintain a lifestyle in line with the ethical and moral teachings of Bible. (Gal. 5:19-23).**
    - We train and teach members to become disciples in living out His truth, His way.
- **I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act or worship. (Roms. 8:9, Roms. 13:12-14).**
    - When our will crosses the way to Christ, we will joyfully choose Jesus who is the way.
- **I will faithfully steward/give the resources God has given me, including tithes, time, talents and other materials needed. (Rom. 12:1-8; 1 Tim. 6:17-18).**
    - Everything we have is all because of Christ.

- **I will respect and honor the leadership at the Berean Church (Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-3).**
    - The leadership will give an account to God for how they shepherd the flock. It is important to respect and honor leadership, and to support the efforts of leadership as they seek to serve God in leading the Berean Church.
- **I will pray without ceasing for the Berean Church. (Eph. 6:18-20).**
    - God answers prayer! It is important to ask God to bless all we do as a church.

I understand that this agreement commits me, as a member and disciple of the Berean Church, and its acknowledgement of my humble submission to the leadership of the church and as a duty to myself, I accept the responsibility to notify the Berean Church leadership at any time I can no longer commit to this agreement, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Berean Church.

We believe in:

1. The one true God who lives eternally in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
3. The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God-fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
4. The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgment.
5. The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
6. The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
7. The bodily resurrection of Christ the first fruits of our resurrection; His ascension to the Father, and His reign and meditation as the only Saviour of the world.
8. The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
9. The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
10. The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers-given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
11. The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfill the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgment, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

Giving

Berean Baptist Church relies on the generous giving of our members. The Bible patter of tithing is a great challenge while the New Testament emphasizes cheerful, generous, sacrificial giving!

Additionally, we encourage and support giving to other needs and missions. We believe it is good for committed members to commit at least one tenth of their income to the church. Your giving allows us to meet all our costs, give to those in need and support mission initiatives worldwide. It also enables us to waive any costs incurred for weddings, funerals, etc. As a leadership we never enforce tithing but believe it brings blessings on those who do.

(Read Malachi 3:6-12)

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Dr. Michael W. Couch, Pastor

_____
Name (Please Print)

_____
Sharmaine E. Ellison, Ministry Leader
Member Reception Ministry

_____
Signature

Date: _____

Date: _____