

APPENDIX A:

BIBLICAL REASONING AND OBLIGATIONS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AT CALVARY GRAVENHURST

The Bible is clear that involvement in and commitment to a local church are essential for Christians. Throughout the New Testament the pattern of the Christians is to meet in local congregations (e.g. Acts 2:46; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Timothy 3:15). Church membership is a way of becoming involved in a local church and demonstrating a commitment to the local church. As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to reflect the character of Christ through the pursuit of certain attitudes and actions and the rejection of others. The Bible refers to this reality as "living by the Spirit". The requirements of this membership covenant are in no way intended as an addition to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, this document functions primarily as an accessible yet non-exhaustive explanation of what the Bible teaches about the obedience that faith produces.

I covenant:

- to strive to love God with heart, mind, and soul, and to love other people as myself (Matthew 22:36-40)
- to submit to the authority of the Bible as the final authority on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)
- to pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22)
- to follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances He prescribed to His Church:
 - by being baptized after my conversion
 - by regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion
- to consistently participate in the Christian habit of assembling together on the Lord's day (coming to church weekly) in order to sit under the preaching of God's Word and stir one another up to love and good works (Hebrews 10:23-25).
 - Every member of Calvary needs to commit to an area of service, at least monthly, that our church body may function. Areas of service include Children's Ministry, AV, ushering, greeting, worship team, cleaning between services, etc. If you are struggling to know how you are best suited to serve, or have physical limitations that prevent your commitment to the prior list, the elders would love to help you find the right commitment to make
- to engage in Christian community throughout the week, being dedicated to prayer for one another (consider regular attendance at the weekly prayer meeting), looking for ways to build the body up in love (Acts 2:42-47; Titus 3:14)

- to steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances. This includes regular financial giving to Calvary (your local church), service and participation in community that is loving, cheerful and voluntary (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9)
- by God's grace, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness in life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (Psalm 119:9; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 Peter 4:1-3). Believers should work to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good acts through the Spirit.
- to not participate in such activities that the Bible would deem foolish (Romans 1:28-32; Romans 13:13; Romans 14:14-23; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:13-18)
- to take seriously the responsibility of the freedom in Christ, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Corinthians 8:1-13)
- to follow the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another – the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration (Matthew 18:15-20)
- to receive righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11)
- to submit to the elders at Calvary and diligently strive for unity and peace within the church (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5)
- to vote at church business meetings with prayerful consideration and a biblical mindset for the glory of the triune God

Name

Date

Signature