



# 2011 MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

# OLIVE DRIVE CHURCH

## INTRODUCTION

As Christians, we are members of God's household called to function, participate, and minister in a particular local church within the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member do its part well. A healthy church requires the same: members who are sacrificially committed and well-equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for us to do. Olive Drive Church holds its covenant members in high regard; we expect them to live daily as missionaries of the gospel to the culture. God, in his sovereignty, placed us in this city, among these people, in this century, for his purposes.

Being a member of Olive Drive Church is really about being part of a family. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way they collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving non-Christians. Members who enter into a covenant with their local church are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and leaders are covenanted to assist members first and foremost, to love and lead, provide counsel and aid, and pray for, teach, and guide them.

## What is a membership covenant?

A covenant is a promise. It is not a vow of "till death to us part". By covenanting with us here at ODC you are agreeing to fully participate and remain faithful to the specifics stated in the signed covenant for as long as God has you here in this city at this church. Because you value and respect the promise you have made, the authority of this church's leadership, and those God has placed in your life, a Covenant Member will prayerfully seek God, his Word and those over and around him or her before parting ways with ODC.

## Olive Drive Church's Membership Covenant

The Olive Drive Church covenant includes a personal statement of faith, a statement of agreement on core biblical doctrines, the obligations of Olive Drive Church to its members, and the obligations of members to Olive Drive Church. Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to his glory and then to his bride, the church, to faithfully participate in fulfilling the mission of this local body.

## I. PERSONAL STATEMENT OF FAITH

- I am a Christian saved from the perfect eternal wrath of God by faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through his life, death, and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life
- I believe Jesus Christ is exactly who he claimed to be
- I have repented of my sins and have been made a new creation in Christ
- 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

## II. STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON CORE BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

- I agree with the core beliefs of Olive Drive Church, which are expressed in the [Doctrinal Statement](#).
- I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will adhere to Olive Drive Church's position on primary theological issues, and I will not be divisive over secondary issues.
- I agree that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters.

## III. OBLIGATION OF OLIVE DRIVE CHURCH ELDERS AND PASTORAL LEADERS TO ITS MEMBERS

- We agree to meet the criteria assigned to us in the Scriptures.
- We agree to seek God's will for our church to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit.
- We agree to care for the individual members of the church and seek her growth in grace, truth, and love
- We agree to equip the members of the church for the work of ministry
- We agree to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture.
- We agree to be on guard against false teachers.
- We agree to exercise church discipline when necessary.
- We agree to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members.

#### IV. MY OBLIGATION TO OLIVE DRIVE CHURCH AS A MEMBER

I have taken the 4-session Covenant Membership class, and having understood the 5-Priorities of Covenant Membership, I agree:

##### TESTIMONY

- to share my story of receiving God's grace with others including those who do not know Jesus
- to regularly share stories with Olive Drive Church about how God is working in my life
- to follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church:
  - by being baptized after my conversion
  - by regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through the Lord's Supper

##### WORSHIP

- to actively seek to worship God with my entire life
- to make it a top priority to regularly attend and participate in weekly worship services at ODC
- to commit to daily pursuing a close relationship with Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and the practice of spiritual disciplines
- to steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure. This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in this church that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary.

##### DISCIPLESHIP

- to actively pursue and be a part of a small group where others can know me and help me as I seek to glorify God with my whole life
- to commit myself to reading, understanding, and applying the Bible
- to utilize the resources of the church to help me grow in my understanding and application of the Gospel
- to actively pursue opportunities for me to use my gifts to help deepen the faith of others

##### SERVICE

- to seek to understand how God has gifted me, and actively pursue growth in my gifts
- to use my gifts to serve those in the church
- to use my gifts to serve those outside the church

##### ACCOUNTABILITY

- to continually uphold the Olive Drive Church doctrinal statement and not be divisive to its teaching
- to submit myself to the ultimate authority of the Bible on all issues
- to submit myself to the leadership, care, and correction of the elders should the need arise
- to walk in holiness, by God's grace, as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, and should I sin, to confess my sins to Christian brothers and sisters and seek help to repent of my sin
- to uphold the Peacemaker's Pledge by resolving any conflict that arises with another person biblically and without delay
- to not be an active member of another local church while still a covenant member in good standing with ODC
- to annually fill out my Spiritual Growth Assessment

#### V. MY COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF OLIVE DRIVE CHURCH

*The mission of Olive Drive Church is to Glorify God through Lives Transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

I understand the mission statement of Olive Drive Church and commit to participate in this mission as a diligent, faithful disciple of Jesus, 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 understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Olive Drive and is an acknowledgment of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to seek out, talk and pray with Olive Drive Church leadership if at any time I feel I am being led to make a transfer from this church family to another church or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Olive Drive Church.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_