

## **Membership Covenant of Christ Chapel — *Disciples Together***

In these matters we share understanding. This is not an exhaustive expression of Christian formation and discipleship, but affirms our covenant to grow into Christ. These affirmations express our congregational life under our Constitution and Statement of Faith.

### **The Church**

As a church and members thereof, we commit ourselves to one another and to practice our faith in Christian community. We will uphold one another and the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service. We will stand under the Scriptures, honor the ordinances, support the leadership, and pursue mutual Christian maturity and unity.

We will support and encourage sister congregations and ministries, resist divisiveness, and pray diligently for the church both locally and globally. We will participate ecumenically to the limits of our confessional and congregational identity.

### **In Witness**

As we mix with the world, we will exhibit the love, grace, and holiness of Jesus in our work, play, conflict, and conversation.

### **In Vocation**

As a Creation mandate, we regard work as sacred. In all that we do we will work as unto the Lord. The exercise of vocation will be toward fulfilling our dominion calling, expressing our native gifts, and always in pursuit of the glory of God in Jesus Christ through exemplary performance.

### **In Humanity**

We are created beings of gender and personality, damaged by sin, redeemed by Jesus, and straining to be conformed to His image. We will exercise our humanity in community and relationship. We will honor the sanctity of the human body, train our attention and affection to Christ, and affirm the unity and dignity of our person as the temple of the living God.

Our bodies are vehicles of expression and witness. Consequently, our communication in tongue, in written content, or in graphic expression will be for the strengthening, encouragement and comfort of others. We will reject the judgmentalism and sensationalism of the media forms of our culture. We will eschew wrath, gossip, lewdness, and damaging communication. We reject the exercise of force or violence in asserting our will, in intimidation, or in proselytization.

Our bodies are the temples of the Lord. We will care for them accordingly, and use them for God's pleasure. As such, we will reserve sexual activity for the marriage covenant: a lifelong covenant in which God joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. All other manners of sexual activity outside of this union we consider sin and conduct unbecoming a Christian.

We affirm that birth gender is God's will, and that in a fallen world people are confronted with feelings, impulses, and genetic compromises that may lead them to struggle with their identity and self control. We mutually confess that our primary identity is with Jesus Christ, and we covenant together to submit our desires to Christ in his Word, and to support one another in our respective challenges to honor and obey him.

Our selves are submitted to Jesus Christ and under the control of His Spirit. Though many substances may be legal, pleasurable, and even of some benefit, we reject uses that damage the body or cloud the mind. We give thanks to God for healing and palliative compounds, and embrace their development and application to sickness and pain, and endorse the services and resources of the medical community.

We believe that it is our Father's heart that he be worshiped by every nation, tribe, and tongue. We affirm the dignity of every individual; and actively reject the disparagement of any person based on race, color, national origin, disability, age, or other distinctive. We embrace our call to invite all to saving knowledge and joyful service to Jesus Christ.

### **In Stewardship**

We have power and wealth by the grace of God. We will honor God with our substance, not be unnecessarily enslaved to debt, be generous to those in need, and joyfully do our share in financing the work of the gospel locally and globally. We will care for our worldly wealth, knowing it is not ours, but our trust to manage and employ until the Lord comes. All worldly status, position, power and influence comes from God, and is exercised in our lives for His glory.

### **In Governing Authority**

As our times reject or abuse authority of various kinds, we affirm the right place of governing authorities as constituted by God, and treasure our national tradition of citizen participation. We will honor civil authorities and extend them respect even when we disagree. We reserve civil disobedience for instances when civil authorities mandate our active and personal participation in sin or denial of the tenets of our faith. We affirm those who serve in the branches of our government as fulfilling a holy calling. We embrace civil engagement, and accept the price of following Jesus in a broken world. Understanding that world systems are broken and corrupt, we will give ourselves on behalf of those who are disenfranchised, marginalized, and oppressed.

God has also established leaders in the church, and we are to honor and follow them as they follow Christ and stand under His Scriptures. As we call them to office, we cherish the body of Christ and those who serve among us in leadership capacities. We covenant to stand under their leadership and support them in vision, direction, administration, and discipline. We will pray for both our civil and ecclesiastical authorities, that the gospel may prosper in orthodoxy, orthopraxy, and peace.

### **Conclusion**

Our call to be disciples of Jesus is dynamic. It calls for our growth into the image of Christ, our unrelenting devotion to living holy lives, our grace in our congregational life, and our sensitivity to the opportunities for the gospel within our cultural context. Discipleship also means repudiation of sin, death to self, disciplined lives, and a commitment to the sacrificial loving way of the cross.

In membership in the local body of Christ, these are our covenants, our commitments, and our aspirations.

To God be the glory.