

## **Second Mile Church Covenant**

### **What is the Church?**

God is in the process of gathering and redeeming a people for Himself for the display of His glory. All of creation has been deceived by sin and will experience eternal separation from God unless it responds to the truth of the Gospel. The gospel is the means by which God reconciles creation. It is only through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that we are given the gift of salvation and are justified by faith. God has given us the work of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the joy of sanctification and the mission of the body of Christ. The Church Universal (all followers of Jesus, everywhere) is the means by which God is fulfilling His purposes in the world. The local Church (followers of Jesus in a specific locale) gives us the opportunity to join others in God's mission of redemption. It is our responsibility as the body of Christ, the church, to radically amplify Jesus through engaging and loving our community, our city, and the world. God's word tells us that there are many members within the same body. As our human bodies rely on the independent and cooperative function of each of its parts, so the church is dependent on the unity and diversity of each of its members. (1 Corinthians 12)

### **What is a Covenant?**

As it relates to the Old Testament, this was a promise made by God to his people that he would protect them if they kept his law and were faithful to him.

As it relates to the New Testament, this is the promise that if one places their faith in Jesus, they receive forgiveness of sin and become sons and daughters of God.

As it relates to the Church, this is an agreement or promise that each member of the local church will work in harmony for the purposes of the gospel. In this context the first priority is a commitment to God's glory and the excellence of the body and bride of His Son.

### **The Purpose of Second Mile's Membership Covenant is:**

1. To join the Holy Spirit in forming an authentic community of faith (the church), that amplifies God's glory and seeks to serve its neighbor. (Mark 12:30-31)
2. To clarify the intentions and responsibilities of each member.
3. To encourage consistency, accountability, and loving unity within the body of Christ.
4. To accomplish God's vision and goals for Second Mile.

### **The church leadership/elders covenant...**

- to appoint elders and deacons (including staff members) who meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- to provide teaching, preaching, and counsel that is consistent with Scripture and the whole counsel of God's word (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:1).
- to prayerfully seek the wisdom of God and his direction for our church community and resources as prompted by the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5).
- to be on guard against false teachers and teaching (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1).
- to lovingly care for the church and equip the members for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12).
- to care for the church through prayer, particularly the sick, and to help those in need (James 2:14-17, 5:14)
- to exercise with grace church discipline when necessary for the good of the one being disciplined and the health of the church (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1)
- to set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12).

As a member you are proclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord of all creation -- past, present, and future, that you have been adopted into the family of God through your acknowledgement of sin, and that you have trusted in the redemptive work of Jesus that was accomplished through the cross and his resurrection. You are also acknowledging that you have been or are willing to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as a testimony of your relationship with Jesus.

### **As a member I covenant...**

- To read and find clarity in the Second Mile doctrinal statement (theology section of Discover Second Mile) and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to strive for unity and peace (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).
- To submit to the final authority of the Scriptures on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- To pursue and persevere in my relationship with Jesus through regular personal Bible reading, communal engagement, and consistent practice of spiritual disciplines. This pursuit will be evident in my regular participation in the life of Second Mile. This includes but is not limited to the weekly gathering, engaging in a biblical community (community groups, Iron & Iron, Moxie, Focal Point, etc...), serving our missional context, and living a life that glorifies Jesus (Luke 18:1; Acts 2:42-47, 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-2; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; Titus 3:14).
- To steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances. This includes regular financial giving, service and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- To submit to the discipline of God through the Holy Spirit by:
  - following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another - the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.
  - receiving 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).
- By God's grace to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3). I have been given a new heart and should strive to put certain actions to death, while actively engaging in love and good deeds through the Spirit. I will not allow cultural 'norms' or involvement in 'earthly things' to distract me from God's intentions.
  - I will abstain from sexual immorality of any kind. If unmarried abstinence and if married complete fidelity within heterosexual and monogamous marriage. Both require maintaining sexual purity and not involving one's self in adultery, premarital sex (cohabitation), and pornography (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)
  - I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip, gluttony, and other sinful behavior as the Bible dictates (Romans 1:28-32, 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:3-18).
  - Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10).
- To take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Corinthians 8:1-13).
- To commit myself to the Second Mile family and agree to radically amplify Jesus through engaging and loving our community, our city, and the world. I recognize this will be accomplished by pursuing Second Mile's vision and core values.



Having believed the gospel and received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and being in agreement with the Covenant of Second Mile, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to fully partner with the Second Mile Church body.

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New Member Signature

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Date

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Print First and Last Name

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E-mail

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Elder Signature

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Phone Number

**Second Mile Membership Covenant**