

Congregational Membership Agreement

We become Christians after repenting and being baptized for the forgiveness of our sins and, at that point, become a member of Christ's body, the church. (Acts 2.38/I Cor 12.12) God also directs us to be an active member in a local congregation of his people so that our spiritual needs can be met and we have the opportunity to serve others. This local congregation is led by a leadership team of elders who "direct the affairs of the church" and evangelists who "preach the word" while we together "prepare God's people for works of service". Since we are charged with "keeping watch" over the flock to which God has entrusted us, the elders and evangelists take this responsibility very seriously.

Our congregation continues to rapidly grow in numbers. Our desire is that every new member assimilate into the activities and life of our congregation as rapidly as possible, being served and serving others. Therefore, we believe it is best that everyone who desires to be considered a member of North River and serve under the leadership of the elders and evangelists affirm their belief in the fundamental principles of our faith, be united with us in common goals and state their desire to serve with us. This document describes some of our united beliefs and invites you to join with us in our service to God and our community.

The Elders & Evangelists,

Having made a decision to make Jesus Christ the Lord of my life and having been baptized into Christ, I now am ready to make a decision to unite with a local congregation of God's people: the North River Church of Christ family. In doing so, I commit myself to God, the leadership and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the **unity** of our church:
 - a. By acting in love toward other members
 - b. By refusing to gossip - seeking to say only what builds others up
 - c. By being supportive of the local church leadership

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together" (Romans 14:19 PHILLIPS).

"Have a sincere love for other believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart" (1 Peter 1:22 TEV).

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs" (Ephesians 4:29).

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you" (Hebrews 13:17).

2. I will share the **mission** of our church
 - a. By praying for its spiritual and numerical growth
 - b. By inviting others to visit with our church family
 - c. By warmly welcoming those who do visit

"To the church ... we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly" (1 Thessalonians 1:1-2 LB).

"The Master said to the servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes, and urge the people there to come so my house will be full'" (Luke 14:23 NCV).

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified” (Romans 15:7 LB).

3. I will serve the **ministry** of our church
 - a. By discovering my gifts and talents
 - b. By allowing myself to be equipped for works of service
 - c. By developing a servant's heart

“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you” (1Peter 4:10 PHILLIPS)

“(God) gave... some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Ephesians 4:11-12).

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who ... (took on) the very nature of a servant” (Philippians 2:3-4, 7).

4. I will support and share the **responsibility** of our church
 - a. By attending faithfully the meetings of the Body
 - b. By living a godly life to represent Christ well
 - c. By contributing regularly to the needs of the church and the poor

“Let us not give up meeting together... but let us encourage one another” (Hebrews 10:25).

“Whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27 PHILLIPS).

“Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering” (1Corinthians 16:2 LB).

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops” (Proverbs 3:9).

The North River leadership team eagerly serves God and his church with the energy, time and talents that He provides. Our sincere desire is to be available to our church family to provide guidance, teaching, advice and spiritual support to those who request such help. We strive to build and promote a patient, spiritual church family environment in which the weak are helped to become stronger spiritually, the timid are encouraged to become more courageous, the spiritually lazy are admonished to rededicate themselves to Christ's work and the spiritually strong feel respected for their hard work. (1 Thessalonians 5).

Our commitment to new and existing North River members is that we will strive to:

- 1) Set a good example as we follow Christ in our daily lives
- 2) Be patient in our personal interactions with each brother and sister in Christ
- 3) Guard and protect the church flock from false doctrine and harmful influences
- 4) Work to reach those who are lost and strengthen those who are saved

Our prayer is that all those considering becoming a part of the North River Church will read carefully this document, study the bible passages identified, meet with members of our leadership group for discussion and pray for God's direction in their decision. If, after that time of personal study, advice and reflection you are ready to affirm and agree with the basic principles in this document we will be thrilled to welcome you into our local church family.

The Elders and Evangelists