

Peace Haven Baptist Church



Membership Covenant

Covenant Membership

Covenant membership is rooted in love for those who belong to our church family as we hope to experience the fullness of joy and abundant life that is extended to us by Jesus.

The purpose of this covenant is to help clarify the obligations and expectations for the elders and members of Peace Haven and serve as an opportunity for reflection and growth towards holiness and maturity.

Peace Haven exists to glorify God through worshiping Him, becoming mature in Christ, and reaching the world with the Gospel. As a local body of believers, we are part of something much bigger than ourselves. We have been graciously invited into God's redemptive purposes in the world.

Membership at Peace Haven is participation in a family, a local expression of the universal household of God. All members are united in Christ and therefore, to each other. Our unity is demonstrated by our love for God and for others, both within and outside of our church family. Since we are identified with Christ, it is our desire to display the message of the gospel in a manner that honors God and reflects his character.

This membership covenant is composed of general Christian obligations. For example, all Christians, regardless of membership at Peace Haven or any other local body, are required to submit to the authority of Scripture, pursue holiness, be good stewards of their resources, and continually repent and confess their sin to a holy God.

As a member of Peace Haven, each member has a responsibility before God to encourage and instruct one another, and remain faithful to each of these obligations. Any time an individual member feels that the corporate church body is not remaining faithful to these requirements, it is the responsibility of the individual to lovingly and humbly express these concerns to the leadership of the church.

Peace Haven is under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we are committed to contending to the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. Individuals who join us in covenant membership are expected to affirm each of the beliefs outlined in our Doctrinal Statement (Statement of Faith). These beliefs serve to direct the mission and vision of the church and members are expected to reflect these beliefs in their teaching, service, and life.

Annual Covenant Renewal

All covenant members will be asked to affirm their membership annually through an online form and verbally in a worship gathering focused on covenant membership.

We will communicate the need for reaffirmation annually, and provide a paper option for those who are not able to complete the form online.

If a member chooses not to participate in the annual reaffirmation process, this choice will be considered a voluntary withdrawal from membership.

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Peace Haven is led by a plurality of elders. As shepherds and overseers of a local church, elders are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping, and caring for the church body corporately and individually.

The Elders Covenant ...

To appoint elders and deacons according to the criteria assigned to them in Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

To prayerfully seek God's will for our church community and steward her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following of the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

To care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth, and love (Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 1:28; James 5:14)

To provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5)

To equip the members of the church for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16)

To guard against false teachers and teachings (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1)

To lovingly exercise discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20)

To set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership as stated below (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3)

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All those who have experienced the grace of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ have the opportunity to reflect the character of Christ through the pursuit of certain thinking, attitudes, and actions as they live by the Spirit and seek to be obedient in the faith.

As a member of Peace Haven Baptist Church, I Covenant ...

To submit to the authority of Scripture as the final judge on all issues (Psalm 119:2; 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)

To follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to his Church: being baptized after my conversion and regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Jesus through communion. (Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 22:18-20)

To regularly participate in the life of Peace Haven by attending weekly services, engaging in gospel-centered community, and serving those within and outside of this church (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Titus 3:14)

To steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances. Including regular financial giving, service, and participation in our community that is sacrificial, 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 all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ. Striving to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit. (1 Peter 1:13-16; 4:1-3)

To refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Romans 14:14-23)

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 submit to the discipline of God through his Holy Spirit by following the biblical procedures for church discipline (Psalms 141:5; Matthew 18:15; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11)

To confess my sin to God and to fellow believers, and repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10)

To submit to the teaching and authority of the elders and strive for unity and peace within the church (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5)