

# GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

## Covenant

### Our Commitments to One Another Before God

#### Preamble

Believing that the Church of Jesus Christ is the very Household of God on earth; and  
(Eph. 2:19; Heb. 3:6; 1 Pet. 4:17)

Believing that Jesus Christ is the Foundation and Chief Cornerstone and Master Builder of His Church; and  
(Matt. 21:42; Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-8)

Believing that the only means authorized by Christ for carrying out His Great Commission is His Church; and  
(Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 3:10)

Believing that from apostolic times, Christians gathered together in local assemblies (churches) for worship, instruction, fellowship and expression of faith; and  
(Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 11:18; Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 3:16; Heb. 10:23-25; 1 John 1:7; Further, the New Testament Epistles themselves and their content are evidence of this.)

Believing that these churches were made up of specific, baptized, professing disciples of Jesus Christ; and  
(Acts 2:41; 8:12-13; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; Further, the New Testament Epistles written to specific people in specific locations are evidence of this.)

Believing that there is no way of carrying out the many Body Life ("one-another") commandments of the New Testament short of a recognizable, mutually accountable body of such professing disciples of Jesus Christ; and  
(The "one-another" commands—e.g., John 13:34; Rom. 12:10; Gal. 5:13; et al.—cannot be obeyed in isolation—they demand "another"; as these commands are given to believers in Christ, they must be carried out within the body of Christ.)

Having—by grace, through faith—believed in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and  
(Acts 16:31; Rom. 5:15-21; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 3:8-9)

Having publicly professed our faith through believer's baptism; therefore,  
(Acts 2:41; 8:12-13; 10:47-48; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27)

#### Commitments

We do now, before God and through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, willingly and joyfully enter into covenant with other covenant members of this local church, Grace Bible Church of Lorton (2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:16; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Pet. 1:2):

1. We will submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final word on all matters of life and doctrine.  
(2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21)
2. We will seek to resist sin and pursue holiness.  
(Rom. 6:1-14; 8:13; 1 Thess. 4:1; Titus 2:12; 1 Pet. 1:13-16; 1 John 1:6-10)

3. We will not neglect gathering together for weekly corporate worship and we will participate in the body of Christ by obeying the "one another" commands in Scripture, recognizing that unique circumstances may occasionally constrain us. In doing so, we will avail ourselves of the grace of God expressed through community (at GBC, the "one another" commands are primarily lived out in community through the Home Groups).  
(Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25)
4. We will make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace with one another. We will use our words to build up one another and glorify God rather than speaking lies, deceit, slander, or gossip. We will strive to count others as more significant than ourselves. We will guard against legalism by not binding consciences where the Bible allows freedom for personal conviction.  
(Eph. 4:1-3, 29-31; Phil. 2:3-5; Rom. 14; 1 Cor. 8:1-13)
5. We will show Christian love, affectionate care, and genuine forgiveness toward each other. We will encourage, admonish, pray for, and exhibit watchfulness over one another with wisdom, gentleness, and humility in the power of the Holy Spirit. We will rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, helping to carry each other's burdens.  
(Matt. 7:1-5; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:15; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13; 1 Thess. 5:11; 1 Pet. 1:22)
6. We will work together to maintain the church's Christ-exalting witness by supporting: the Confession of Faith, the faithful expository preaching of the Bible, the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper, the Biblical authority of the Elder Team, and the exercise of church discipline as expressed in the Restoration Policy.  
(Matt. 18:15-20; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 11:26; 2 Tim. 4:2)
7. We will be faithful stewards of our time, talents, and finances by cheerfully and regularly serving within the body and by contributing to the expenses of the church, the help of those in need, and the spread of the gospel.  
(Matt. 25:14-30; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 8-9; Gal. 2:20; 6:10; Jas. 1:27; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; 1 John 3:17-18)
8. We will be faithful to proclaim the gospel in our homes, neighborhoods, and to the ends of the earth in whatever way the Lord enables us.  
(Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:16-21)
9. If we leave this congregation, we will join another gospel-preaching church as soon as possible where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.  
(See the *Preamble* as substantiation.)

### **Benediction**

May "the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with [us] all." Amen.  
(2 Cor. 13:14)

### **Signature(s)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Elder: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_