

Trinity Baptist Church Membership Information Packet

Requirements for Membership

- Personal profession of Christ as Lord and Savior
- Baptism by immersion as a public symbol of one's faith
- Completion of the membership class
- Signed commitment to abide by TBC membership covenant

Statement of Beliefs and Doctrinal Statement

Trinity Baptist Church holds to the New Hampshire Baptist Confession of 1833 however, anyone that holds to the Baptist Faith and Message of 2000 is recognized by TBC as having like minded faith and doctrinal beliefs.

Purpose of the Member's Covenant

The covenant of Trinity Baptist Church is a guideline for the members of Trinity but contains general obligations for the governing of every believer. For example, all Christians, whether members of Trinity or elsewhere, are required to submit to Scripture, pursue holiness, steward resources, etc. Such requirements are expectations for believers regardless of any failure on the part of local church to live up to her covenant obligations.

If at any time an individual member feels as though the corporate church body is not remaining faithful to the requirements of the covenant, it is the responsibility of the individual member to lovingly and humbly express concerns to the leadership of the church. If the church elders are unwilling to change and pursue covenant faithfulness, then the member is freed from his or her membership obligations and encouraged to seek membership elsewhere given the church's disobedience. In addition, certain circumstances may provide sufficient and righteous grounds to transfer membership elsewhere.

While focusing primarily in language on the responsibilities between the individual parties, the corporate church body, her elders and her individual members, the covenant is first and foremost an acknowledgement of general Christian obligations and an agreement to enter into those duties for God's glory and the good of the body and bride of His Son.

Member's Covenant of Trinity Baptist Church

As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to live according to the Word of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. We covenant as members of Trinity Baptist Church to obediently live in community, striving to honor God with our lives and exhort one another to godliness.

As evidenced in my personal spiritual growth, I do covenant to obey:

In my life as a Believer:

- To pursue personal spiritual growth and faithfulness to His Word through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and the practice of spiritual disciplines with complete reliance on Scripture as the final authority on all issues in my life. (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)
- To give of the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts and financial resources. I will give regularly, sacrificially and cheerfully. (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- To conduct my home and my marriage in a manner that illustrates the gospel and the sacrificial love of Christ for His Bride. I will practice purity in my thought life as well as my physical body. I will seek to preserve my marriage and will take steps to reconcile rather than pursuing divorce. I will regularly practice family devotions and accept the responsibility to teach my children the truth of the Word of God. I will lead my family to actively participate in the body at Trinity. (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

In my life as a part of the Body:

- To identify with and come under submission to Trinity Baptist Church by obediently participating in the two ordinances given to the church by God: baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- To be an active member of Trinity as demonstrated by regular participation in worship services and small group Bible studies. I will seek to serve both inside the church as well as participate in community outreach. As a member of this body, I will strive to protect the unity of our fellowship by acting in love toward other members, believing the best of their intentions and actions and refusing to participate in gossip, slander or division. I will encourage other's spiritual growth and will participate in holding one another accountable in this unity and covenant. (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Titus 3:14)

• To, by God's grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit, strive to walk in holiness in all areas of my life as a sacrifice of worship to the Lord. As a believer and a member of Trinity, I will strive to avoid behaviors and attitudes that would harm my testimony and that of my church.

(1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3; Romans 1:28-32, 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:3-18; Romans 14:14-23; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13)

• To submit to the discipline of the Word of God personally by leading a life of active confession and repentance. When necessary, I will be an active participant in seeking the reconciliation of members of Trinity by following the biblical procedures of church discipline. I will receive biblical discipline when approached by fellow believers and will seek to demonstrate repentance to preserve the unity of our fellowship.

(Psalm 41:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11; Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10)

• To submit to the elders and other appointed leaders of the church and to diligently strive for peace and unity within the church. If I should leave Trinity for a biblical reason, I will notify the staff/leadership of this decision and reasons, and I will quickly seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.

(Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5)

Pastor's Covenant of Trinity Baptist Church

The elders of Trinity Baptist Church are called to protect, lead, equip and care for the corporate church body and her individual members.

We, the Pastors/Elders of Trinity Baptist Church covenant:

• To appoint pastors and deacons that meet the qualifications described in the Scriptures

(1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

• To continually and prayerfully seek God's guidance for Trinity Baptist Church and to be good

stewards of the resources entrusted to the church, to the best of our abilities (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; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

• To provide teaching and counsel from the entirety of Scripture

(Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:1).

- To equip the members of the church for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16).
- To be on guard against false teachers and false teachings (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1).
- To lovingly exercise church discipline when necessary, for the glory of God and for the good of not only the one disciplined but also for the health of the church as a whole.
(Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).
- To set an example by joining the members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership as stated by our membership covenant.
(Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3).

Trinity Baptist Church Covenant for Membership

In order to become a member of Trinity Baptist Church I recognize that I must attend the New Member's Class as a family (students and older) and acknowledge my like minded doctrinal beliefs and support of this Church family by covenanting together to live according to the Word of God to the best of my abilities and to lead my family to do so.

I am signing on behalf of my family as wishing to enter into membership with Trinity Baptist Church and thereby enter into this covenant relationship with Trinity as my Church Family of Faith. I understand that those in my household are ultimately under my leadership and, as a part of my household, should any of them who are believers, violate part of the covenant relationship, I would represent them as the head of our home.

Husband/Head of Household

Date

Wife

Date

Optional:

Any children in my home who are believers, will be considered members of Trinity based on my authority however, I have explained the covenant with my children and would like to have them sign their agreement to the covenant as well.

Child

Date

Child

Date