

Covenant Community

DEAREST PLACE ON EARTH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY DO MEMBERSHIP?

Formal relationships are found throughout the Bible, anywhere Christian community is discussed. Here at Summit View, so many people join us each week, each with a unique expression of engagement and commitment. For some, it's regular engagement in Sunday worship and ongoing discipleship. For others it's an occasional drop-in or holiday participation. Membership (what we call Covenant Community) is a way for us to better care for those most deeply committed (our Covenant Partners) as well as provide a clear pathway for discipleship and growth.

WHY NOW?

Over the past few years, as we've continued to study the Scriptures, examine the current state of the church, and consider how we might better lead, pastor, and shepherd the body of Summit View, we've determined that now is the time to introduce the Biblical call to mutual commitment.

WHAT IS A COVENANT?

Throughout scripture we see God calling people to be His own, and to be committed to one another. We see these commitments or "covenants" made between God and man, as well as within human relationships. Where God's covenants to us are predominantly one-sided with the full weight of the commitment falling to God to uphold, the covenants we are called to make with each other entail mutual agreement to both uphold a commitment to the other. Should the commitment become one-sided at any point, it ceases to be a covenant.

Genesis 12:1,2 | Exodus 6:7 | Isaiah 43:1 | 1 Samuel 18:3, 20:16 | 2 Samuel 5:3 | Genesis 6:18, 9:16, 15:18 | Luke 22:20 | Hebrews 8:6-7

WHY DO WE SIGN A COVENANT PLEDGE?

In all Biblical covenants, a visible representation of the agreement is utilized. While we no longer feel it appropriate to sacrifice animals or build a stone monument in the church parking lot, the principle of initiation into God's community remains. Using the term "covenant" and asking both parties to sign a physical pledge, both establish a tangible expression of the commitment being made—a commitment counter-cultural to the transactional and flippant nature of society today.

Genesis 15 | Exodus 12:48 | Exodus 24:8 | 2 Samuel 24 | Ruth 4 | Matthew 26:17-29



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WHAT IF I'M NOT READY?

You are still welcome! We understand that everyone is at a different point in their discipleship journey, and our doors are always open for participation in Sunday services, serving in certain areas, and even joining a Life Group. That said, our hope is always to come alongside you in your journey and encourage deeper engagement and involvement—it's what we were designed for! As you discover your gifts and step further into what God has for you, part of that may include an ask for a tangible commitment. As a participant, you can also rest assured that those we empower to lead, teach, and serve on staff have all committed to Summit View and yourself at the highest level.

WHY DO I NEED TO BE BAPTIZED TO BE A MEMBER?

In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus leaves us with a summary of the fulfillment of His ministry and the call to live out His continuing mission. A part of that charge includes the call to be baptized after conversion. While not required for salvation, it is the outward declaration of an internal decision. It is symbolic of our acceptance of God's covenant to us, and our adoption into His family—the church. The establishment of one's covenant with God comes first, before we can truly engage a covenant with His church, therefore, we ask that you be baptized prior to formally committing to Summit View Church.

Acts 8:12 | Acts 8:35-38 | Acts 16:31-34

HOW DOES CHURCH DISCIPLINE WORK?

Church discipline, as modeled in Scripture, should never be punitive, designed to bring about shame or public mockery. Rather its purpose is always to bring about repentance, reconciliation, and ultimately restoration between the offended and offending parties—always in a spirit of gentleness and respect. The Pastors & Elders at Summit View Church are committed to walking with our Covenant Partners in a discipleship journey, equally committed to living “above reproach”, spurring one another on in the pursuit of Christlikeness. Should the need for church discipline arise, it will be handled privately, between the local campus Shepherding team and the specific parties involved.

Matthew 18 | Galatians 6

