



WHO IS THIS FOR?

This is for all those who want to walk with the people of theAlley in Covenant Membership and in accountable relationship with other believers. This is not an attempt to be perfect but rather flows out of the joy found in the forgiveness and grace of our Lord Jesus.

WHAT IS A COVENANT MEMBER?

Covenant: Infers a spiritual agreement we are making between both God and other people. See below for more details.

Member: Not used in the sense of joining a club, but rather in recognizing oneself as a member of a body.

{Covenant members over the age of 17 will also be the voting body of the church.}

WHAT IS A COVENANT? (must read)

A covenant is a mutual agreement between two parties. It infers accountability and an ongoing commitment. The Hebrew word for covenant, *berit* is a relational term used to illustrate the firm commitment of God to His people and the expectations that God has for His people.

The **Old Covenant** is most simply expressed through the 10 commandments. Nothing but complete obedience to them would earn God's favor. Yet, God showed us grace and unmatched love by sending us Jesus. Jesus is the only one who completely fulfilled the requirements of the Old Covenant. And in Jesus a **New Covenant** (agreement between God and man) was made through which we might find favor with God. This new Covenant is a Covenant made in Jesus' blood. Through the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus, by His death and resurrection, we are set free to serve God and live by the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. In this new Covenant comes a new obedience, NOT one of compulsion or duty but one that flows out of redemption, gratitude and love.

{ It is this New Covenant that we celebrate and invite you to join in with us. This document is not designed to add to the completed work of Jesus but rather to be used as a reminder and encouragement for His continuing growth and prominence in our lives. Obedience does not earn salvation, but salvation bears fruit in obedience.

This is our covenant to each other and before God...

In celebration of the new life found in the New Covenant in Jesus blood,
knowing my inability to do this on my own
and in my desire to follow Jesus with all of my being
and to be held accountable through the community of believers

I commit to the following:

1) WALK WITH GOD DAILY through personal study, reflection and prayer.

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." and "I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.." Psalm 119: 11, 15-16

Expectation:

That I will develop a personal habit/routine of searching God's word and prayer.

What this looks like:

- 1) **ACTIVE:** Be actively studying, praying and growing in faith and the knowledge of the Spirit.
- 2) **ROUTINE:** Build a routine and habit of prayer and study.
- 3) **REPENT:** Daily repenting and seeking of forgiveness through our Savior Jesus.
- 4) **GIVE:** Joyfully give of my time, money, and talent to the direct service of God.

theAlley's commitment:

To challenge and equip you for this task.

2) WALK WITH OTHERS in ongoing pursuit of growth, depth and knowledge of the Spirit.

"Confess your sins, one to another." James 5:16

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" Proverbs 27:17

Expectation:

That you will be actively involved in a small group and/or a One-to-One relationship where the Bible is read, people are prayed for and life is shared.

What this looks like:

- 1) **WITH OTHERS:** Be an active participant in an honest, open and accountable discipleship relationship with a group and/or through One-to-One discipleship.
- 2) **AT HOME:** Build a routine of Biblical study and praying for each other into the fabric of your home and family life.
- 3) **IN A GROUP:** Commit oneself to meeting at least bi-monthly with a small group of believers for the express purpose of studying God's word, praying for one another and encouraging one another in the faith.
- 4) **IN WORSHIP:** Be actively involved in the worship of God alongside of other believers.
- 5) **REPENT:** Make regular confession of your sin with another believer. (see One-to-One resources on theAlley.org for a guide -COMING SOON-)

theAlley's commitment:

To equip leadership, to foster opportunities and to model honest and open discipleship.

3) TAKE IT TO THE STREET by building discipleship into every aspect of my life.

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children." Ephesians 5:1

Expectation:

Seek to honor God in all that you do and recognize everyday experiences and relationship as discipleship opportunities.

What this looks like:

- 1) **RECOGNIZE:** Recognize discipleship opportunities and relationships in every aspect of life,
- 2) **ASK:** Ask two key questions about every event/opportunity/relationship:
 - a) *(Glorify God)* How will this glorify God?
 - b) *(Take it to God)* How can we be praying for each other? or How can I pray for you?
- 3) **SHARE:** As the Lord leads, honestly and openly share who Jesus is and His redeeming role in your life. This is done in the context of relationship, through a heart of love, a willingness to forgive, an honesty about failures and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

theAlley's commitment:

To model integrating discipleship into every aspect of our life together as a church. To give concrete examples of what everyday discipleship looks like and to foster a culture of discipleship in all aspects of life.

4) SERVE OTHERS in Jesus name.

"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14

Expectation:

Love people because you are loved. Relationally invest in and come alongside of others.

What this looks like:

- 1) **SEEK OPPORTUNITY:** Seek out opportunities to lovingly come alongside of and serve.
- 2) **LOVE OTHERS:** Love your neighbor.
- 3) **AT WORK:** Serve those with whom you work.
- 4) **IN LIFE:** Love those who don't love you back.
- 5) **AT HOME:** Be a servant to your family.
- 6) **AT CHURCH:** Look for opportunities to use your gifts.

theAlley's commitment:

To provide opportunities to serve together. To challenge you to live love at every opportunity.

5) PURSUE UNITY IN THE FAITH

with this covenant is also an ascription to the basic beliefs of our church and a relational commitment to work out disagreements (relational and/or theological in nature) through a process of mutual repentance, and in accordance to God's word.

"He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it." Titus 1:9

BASIC TENETS: (see Biblical Convictions document online for expanded exposition)

1- The only hope for man's eternal salvation is Jesus the Messiah.

(Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; John 14:5-7)

2- There is one true God revealed in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 11:26-28)

3- The Bible in its entirety is the true, inspired and authoritative Word of God.

(Isaiah 55:9-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13)

4- We believe in the total depravity of humankind.

(Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23, 5:12; Ephesians 3:1-3, 12)

5- The role of the church is to equip people to know, follow and share who Jesus is and what He has done.

(Ephesians 4:7-13; Colossians 1:18)

6- The devil is the adversary of God and His church.

(Genesis 3; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Mark 4:15; Luke 22:3; Acts 5:4-6; 2 Cor. 11:14; 2 Thess. 2:9)

7- We treasure and celebrate the sacraments.

(Matthew 28:16-20; Titus 3:5; Romans 6:1-11; 1 Corinthians 11:17-23)

RELATIONAL UNITY:

When I sin, I will...

- 1) **ADDRESS IT:** Take responsibility for my own actions.
- 2) **CONFESS IT:** Repent of it before God and other believers.
- 3) **SEEK RESOLUTION:** Seek resolution and forgiveness from those I may have harmed.
- 4) **RECOGNIZE:** Recognize how great God's love and forgiveness is. I accept it as the lovingly offered free gift of God's grace through Jesus blood

When others sin against me, I will...

- 1) **NOT GOSSIP:** I will approach it with love and care.
- 2) **ADDRESS IT:** Talk directly to the person about it.
- 3) **CONFESS IT:** Repent of my own sin in the situation.
- 3) **OFFER FORGIVENESS:** Offer the same grace and forgiveness God has afforded me.
- 4) **SEEK RESOLUTION:** Following the Biblical guidelines laid out in Matthew 18 I will seek true reconciliation and will involve others and the church in the way laid out in that passage.

theAlley's Commitment:

To preach Christ crucified and by Him alone we are saved. To proclaim salvation by faith through grace and not by works. To use the Bible as the norm and authority and to seek out and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in all things. To recognize our own regular need for repentance and to encourage Biblical resolution and reconciliation when relational conflicts occur. To teach the hard truth that we need to hear, even when we don't want to.

Knowing that I can not do this perfectly but resting solely on God's grace,
I sign this covenant with the people of the Alley church,

1) I WILL WALK WITH GOD DAILY

through personal study, reflection and prayer.

2) I WILL WALK WITH OTHERS

in ongoing pursuit of growth, depth and knowledge of the Spirit.

3) I WILL TAKE IT TO THE STREET

by building discipleship into every aspect of my life.

4) I WILL SERVE OTHERS

in Jesus name.

5) I WILL PURSUE UNITY IN THE FAITH

both Biblically and relationally with others.

Name (print): _____ email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Day and Month of Birthday: _____

Sign Here _____ date: _____

___ I need to be connected to a small group.

___ Connect me to One-to-One discipleship.

___ I'd like to go through mentor training.

___ Help me recognize my Spiritual gifts.

___ Connect me to a regular men's or women's Bible Study group.