

## **The Meaning of Membership in New Covenant Baptist Church**

New Covenant takes its beliefs, values, and practices very seriously and highly values a covenant relationship among our members to ensure we are always representing and teaching those beliefs, values, and practices consistently.

As explained in our By-Laws, those wishing to become members are made aware of the beliefs and practices of the church. They must have a desire to uphold those beliefs in their own lives. They must also be willing to accept responsibility to hold other members accountable to those same beliefs in all we do and in every way that we represent the church. Those wishing to become members of the New Covenant family must be willing to enter into this kind of covenant relationship.

Because of the importance we place on membership, we believe that there are certain positions of leadership and activities within the church that must be limited to those who have committed to be in a covenant relationship with the rest of the body. Essentially, only members have the right and responsibility to speak or act on behalf of the church, make decisions in the church, or represent the church to the community. For example, only members can hold elected positions of leadership within the church. Furthermore, only members will be allowed to teach, care for, or chaperone the minors of the church. Positions with ongoing, scheduled responsibilities are also restricted to members.

However, New Covenant does not wish to be an exclusive club. Non-members are always welcome and encouraged to join us in our worship services and partake in a variety of other church activities so they can experience and grow in the Spirit of God through the people of New Covenant Baptist Church. It is our sincerest desire that they would eventually join us in a covenant relationship.

The Pastor and Deacons must approve any exceptions to this policy.