



MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

INTRODUCTION

The term “church member” can carry a lot of baggage in our current culture. You may think of a member of a country club or a member of a particular store or group. However, membership in a church is much more than just a name on a list. Biblical church membership is about accountability to a particular body of believers and a willingness to be shepherded by the pastors of that body. Mature disciples are members of local churches. In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul writes, “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5, ESV). Paul sees believers in a church, who have specific gifts, functioning together to form a healthy body. This is biblical, meaningful membership.

A church member is a person who identifies Jesus as their Savior and Lord and who also identifies with and is accountable to a local community of believers led by a group of elders (pastors).

FAMILY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Being a member of Redemption Hill is really about family. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way they collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving non-Christians. Members who enter into a commitment with their local church are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and deacons are committed to assist members first and foremost, to love and lead, provide counsel and aid, and pray for, teach, and guide them.

Membership at Redemption Hill is also about accountability. A member at is accountable to other church members to play an active role in the body, specifically by using their gifts to build up the church and actively seeking to resemble Jesus for their own spiritual health and the health of the church. Additionally, a member at Redemption Hill is in humble submission to the elders of the church while seeking to be a faithful disciple of Jesus. Membership is not a begrudging duty. Rather it is a beautiful gift from God that is meant to lead us to joy. It is for our sanctification, and ultimately for the glory of Jesus!



STATEMENT OF FAITH

- * I am a Christian saved from the eternal wrath of God by faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through his death and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life (John 3:16–18; Rom. 3:23–26).
- * I believe Jesus Christ is exactly who he claimed to be (Isa. 53:6; Matt. 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:70; John 4:25–26; 6:29; 8:58; 11:25–27; 14:6–7; 15:5).
- * I have repented of my sins and have been made a new creation in Christ (1 John 1:9; 2 Cor. 5:17).
- * In obedience to Scripture, I have been baptized to personally identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and to publicly demonstrate my commitment as a disciple of Jesus (Col. 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21).

STATEMENT OF BIBLICAL DOCTRINE

- * I will be in sympathy with the core doctrinal beliefs of Redemption Hill Church, which are founded upon historic confessions & creeds, and our theological statement, which can be found in the appendix to this document.
- * I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace; I will adhere to Redemption Hill's position on primary theological issues, and I will not be divisive over secondary issues (Eph. 4:1–3; Heb. 13:7, 17).
- * I agree that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the inerrant, infallible Word of God, and therefore they are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters (Isa. 55:11; 1 Cor. 15:3–4; 2 Tim. 3:15–16; Heb. 4:12).

OBLIGATION OF REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH TO ITS MEMBERS

- * We commit that your elders and deacons will strive to meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1–13; 5:17–22; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Peter 5:1–4).
- * We commit to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1–5).
- * We commit to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service (Eph. 4:11–13) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).



- * We commit to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
- * We commit to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
- * We commit to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).
- * We commit to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12).

MY OBLIGATION TO REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH AS A MEMBER

- * I have read and understood Redemption Hill's theological statement and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17).
- * I commit to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- * I will strive to maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship will be evident through my participation in weekly worship services, communion, gospel community groups, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus (Ps. 105:1-2; Ps. 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3).
- * I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Rom. 12:1-8; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:7-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11). I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family (Heb. 13:17).
- * I commit to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5, 8; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25).

- * I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I could live a new life (2 Cor. 5:17); I will practice complete chastity before marriage, I will avoid cohabitation before marriage. If I am married, I will enjoy complete fidelity in my heterosexual marriage. I will abstain from practices such as , homosexuality, pornography, and fornication (Job 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4); I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, my pastors, and my conscience dictate (1 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:19-21). Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10).

MY COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH

*The mission of Redemption Hill Church is to make disciples of the Lord Jesus who **behold** His gospel, who **belong** in gospel community, and who are **sent** on gospel mission.*

We find this mission clearly stated in the words of Jesus in Matthew 28...

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:18-20, ESV)

I have read the mission statement of Redemption Hill Church and commit to participate in this mission as a diligent, faithful disciple of Jesus. I commit that my identity will be in him, my worship would be for him, my fellowship would be through him, and my interaction with the culture would be for his glory, as I strive to be a faithful member of this local body of believers.

I commit to regularly attend Sunday services (**BEHOLD**), participate in a gospel community group and/or a Men's or Women's Group (**BELONG**), serve regularly on a SERVE team, and give generously to the mission of Redemption Hill Church, so that the gospel can advance for the fame of Jesus (**BE SENT**).



I understand that this commitment obligates me to the members of Redemption Hill Church, and is an acknowledgment of my submission to the elders of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify church leadership if at any time I can no longer make this membership commitment, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Redemption Hill Church.

I understand that I relinquish my membership commitment if I cease to be an active member (i.e. attending weekend services, participating in a gospel community group, serving, giving generously, etc.) in the community of Redemption Hill Church for **6 months** without giving an explanation to the elders of the church.

APPENDIX: BELIEFS & GOVERNANCE

The Gospel

God has always had a plan to redeem and restore His elect. In love, the Father sent His eternal Son Jesus to live a life of perfect obedience, and then to die a brutal death in the place of sinners, where he absorbed the fullness of God's just wrath. When we trust in Jesus by faith alone, we are forever made right with God, filled and sealed with His Spirit, and can walk in a renewed relationship with Him both in this life and forever in eternity.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the one holy church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
 he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the
dead. His kingdom will never end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy and apostolic church. We
affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We
look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Redemption Hill Theological Statement

The fullest expression of our theological beliefs are found in the **London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689**. This can be found online at www.the1689confession.com. We believe that this historic document is an excellent summary of the fundamental truths of God's Word. We accept it, not as an authoritative rule or code of faith, but as an aid to us in times of controversy, a confirmation to us of what we believe, and as a means of growing together in grace. In this Confession the members of our church will have a body of doctrinal truths in small compass, and by means of Scriptural proofs will be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in them (1 Peter 3:15). The summarization of the confession can be found in the succinct statements that follow:

The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the all sufficient Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20, 21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31, 32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32

The Trinity

We believe that there is one God, who has eternally existed in three distinct persons; The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each of these persons are equal in every divine perfection, essence, and being, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19, 20; Ephesians 4:5-6

The Sovereignty of God

We enthusiastically embrace the sovereignty of God in all things, including God's grace in saving sinners. We affirm that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, not on the basis of foreseen faith but unconditionally, according to his sovereign good pleasure and will. We believe that God's sovereignty in salvation neither nullifies the responsibility of people to believe the gospel nor marginalizes the need and power of prayer and evangelism, but rather reinforces and establishes them as the ordained means by which God accomplishes his ordained ends. Isaiah 46:10, John 1:12-13; John 6:37-44; John 10:25-30; Acts 13:48; Ephesians 1:1-14; Ephesians 2:1-8; Philippians 2:12-13, Titus 3:3-7

The Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created very good, upright, and in the image and likeness of God, but that through Adam's sin, the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. As a result man is born dead in sin, totally depraved, estranged from his creator, and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. Sin has justly caused man to be in a state of spiritual blindness and death. Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3; Ephesians 2:12



Regeneration

We believe that those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation and receive eternal life. We believe that regeneration precedes faith, and is a gracious gift of God accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:26; Genesis 3; Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Ecclesiastes. 2:11; John 3:14; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22;

Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on the cross for the forgiveness and atonement for sins. It is only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that one can be saved. Ephesians 2:8–10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18–19; Acts 4:12

The Person and Work of Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe that Jesus is truly God, while also being truly man. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. His atoning work is available to those who would trust in Him alone for salvation. Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:32; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21–23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6–8; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; I Timothy 3:16

Assurance of Salvation

We believe that such only are real believers who endure unto the end: that their perseverance in Christ is the grand mark that distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence from God through the Holy Spirit watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. John 8:31; I John 2:27–28; I John 3:9; I John 5:18; I John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20–21; John 6:66–69; Job 17:9;

The Present Ministry & Second Coming of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God the Father where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry as Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. We believe Jesus is coming again to visibly establish His kingdom, renew all things, consummate His union with His Bride, and to judge the living and the dead. At that time, and in that moment, all believers will receive their new, resurrected and glorified bodies to dwell with the Lord Jesus forever in the new heavens and the new earth. Those who do not trust in Jesus by faith will be raised to eternal separation and judgment in hell. Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:24; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 Peter 4:5; Romans 14:9; 2 Timothy 4:1; 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 22

Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowing of spiritual gifts on His church. We believe that every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and empowered with gifts of His grace. It is, however, the believer's responsibility to attempt to develop his or her sovereignly given spiritual gift(s). We believe that it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to minister according to the gift(s) and grace of God that is given to him or her for their personal edification, but more importantly for the building up of and the unity of the body. Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-19, 1 Corinthians 14

The Church

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42-27; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25

The Lord's Day

We set aside the first day of the week (Sunday) to celebrate the Lord's Day where we distinctly gather as a church for worship and edification in remembrance of our Lord's death and resurrection. Furthermore, we aspire to remember and practice a day of Sabbath for rest, as demonstrated by the LORD God in creation. Whereas, we believe work and rest to not be opposing forces, but elements of a rhythm that make good work and true recreation possible. Sabbath rest provides a helpful, visible reminder that God is at the center of life, and that He has our good in mind (Mk. 2:27). We agree that Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath, that it is "lawful to do good on the sabbath (Matt. 12:12)," and we are further encouraged to look to the person of Christ completing what is necessary for salvation, thus providing eternal rest that comes only through Him. Acts 20:7; Gen. 2:3; Col. 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Ex. 20:8; Rev. 1:10; Ps. 118:15, 24; Isa. 58:13-14; Isa. 56:2-8; Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; Acts 13:44; Lev. 19:30; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2-3; Ps. 26:8; Ps. 87:3; Heb. 4:3-11 Heb. 4:11 Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:3;

The Ordinances

We believe that believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are the two visible ordinances (also called sacraments) that Christ has given His Church. These ordinances outwardly display what has inwardly taken place by the Spirit through faith, namely that those who have professed faith in Jesus have been united to Him in his death and resurrection and are assured eternal life. Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38-41; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

The Governance of Redemption Hill Church

Redemption Hill functions as an elder-led, member affirmed congregational model of church governance. We believe there are two offices in a New Testament church, the office of elder, and the office of deacon. In addition, the church may utilize paid staff and ministerial team leaders to perform and execute the work of ministry in the church. See 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Philippians 1:1-2; Acts 20:17-32; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Acts 6; Romans 16:1-2

Elders

As used in Scripture, the term "elder" is synonymous with "pastor" and "overseer." An elder must be a male, who meets the qualifications laid out in the Scriptures. The elders will be responsible for the oversight and leadership of the church and its ministries. The elders are responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament church in the areas of oversight, shepherding, preaching, and teaching. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Deacons

As used in Scripture, the term *deacon* means *minister* or *servant*. The deacons, under the leadership and direction of the elders, will serve in areas where ministering to the needs of the church is of primary importance. Deacons will be believers of spiritual maturity and wisdom, who demonstrate a servant spirit. 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Philippians 1:1-2, Romans 16:1-2