

## **Awakening House of Prayer Membership Covenant**

The Bible nowhere gives believers a specific copy of what a local church covenant should look like. However, the Bible does describe the relationships between people in local churches as covenantal. Christians are commanded to care for one another, participate in ministry together, confess sin to one another, submit to the leadership of their local pastor/elders, etc.

Pastors are called to care for the flock entrusted to their care, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to expect God to hold them accountable to this holy calling, etc. It is for this reason that many churches throughout the history of Christianity have written local church covenants.

This covenant seeks to briefly explain the expectations given to the pastor/elders and to the membership of Awakening House of Prayer (AHOP). (We use the term “pastor” to mean pastor and elder as we see those terms as interchangeable in scripture.)

### **Pastors Covenant Responsibilities at AHOP**

We the pastors of AHOP covenant:

- To have 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 AHOP, and to steward 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 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, for the good of the one disciplined, and 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 stated below (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3).

## **Membership Responsibilities at AHOP**

We the members of AHOP covenant to the following:

**1. I will glorify the Lord of my church by seeking His fame in my life through worship, obedience to His Word, service inside and outside of the church, spiritual formation (such as regular Bible reading, pursuing the spiritual disciplines, and participation in the Lord's Supper), sharing the gospel with others, and by living a life that brings honor to Christ. I understand that I'm called to honor Christ in every stage and season of my life whether it be in singleness, in dating, in friendship, in marriage, in parenting, in my job, in retirement, etc.**

"Yet for us there is one God, the Father. All things are from Him, and we exist for Him. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things are through Him, and we exist through Him" (1 Corinthians 8:6).

"Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

"Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23-24).

"Then Jesus came near and said to them, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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 everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age' " (Matthew 28:18-20).

**2. I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members, actively participating, refusing to gossip, following the leaders, encouraging other members to grow in their faith, and by living in a way that does not bring disrepute to the gospel or AHOP. We will hold each other accountable in this unity and covenant, following the teachings of scripture as described in the AHOP vision and values.**

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

“Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved” (Acts 2:44-47).

“Now finally, all of you should be like-minded and sympathetic, should love believers, and be compassionate and humble, not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, giving a blessing, since you were called for this, so that you can inherit a blessing” (1 Peter 3:8-9).

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17).

“And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

“Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you also won't be tempted” (Galatians 6:1).

**3. I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, by inviting the unchurched to attend, by warmly welcoming those who visit, and by seeking to make disciples of all nations.**

“Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the message, to speak the mystery of the Messiah, for which I am in prison, so that I may reveal it as I am required to speak. Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Your speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person” (Colossians 4:2-6).

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you’ ” (John 20:21).

“Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that in a case where they speak against you as those who do what is evil, they will, by observing your good works, glorify God on the day of visitation” (1 Peter 2:12).

“Then Jesus came near and said to them, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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 everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age’ ” (Matthew 28:18-20).

**4. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering where God wants me to serve, by discovering my gifts and talents, by being equipped to serve by my pastors, and by developing a servant’s heart.**

“Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different ministries, but the same Lord. And there are different activities, but the same God activates each gift in each person. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person to produce what is beneficial . . .” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

“But now God has placed each one of the parts in one body just as He wanted. And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? Now there are many parts, yet one body” (1 Corinthians 12:18-20).

“And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

“When Jesus had washed their feet and put on His robe, He reclined again and said to them, “Do you know what I have done for you? You call Me Teacher and Lord. This is well said, for I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done for you” (John 13:12-15).

**5. I will support the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, by living a godly life, not teaching doctrine contrary to AHOP’s beliefs, and by giving regularly. I understand that if I relocate and am unable to attend AHOP, I should**

**inform them of my move and find another Bible-believing church to unite with in faith, service, and life.**

“And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

“Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be serious and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the One who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy” (1 Peter 1:13-16).

“Now I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause dissensions and obstacles contrary to the doctrine you have learned. Avoid them, for such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk and flattering words” (Romans 16:17-18).

“Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

“The elders who are good leaders should be considered worthy of an ample honorarium, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says: Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain, and, the worker is worthy of his wages” (1 Timothy 5:17-18).

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized by immersion after my salvation, and being in agreement with AHOP’s covenant, strategy, doctrine, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the AHOP family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members of AHOP.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_