



Membership Covenant

A covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other¹. The Four Corners Membership Covenant includes a statement of purpose, mission, and doctrinal beliefs; the obligations of the Four Corners Church and its leaders to its members; and the obligations of members to Four Corners Church. Though this document does define the relationship amongst Four Corners Church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to his glory and his bride, the church.²

Being a member of Four Corners Church is really about being part of a 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 covenant with their local church are called to a higher degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the elders and deacons are covenanted to assist members first and foremost; to love and to lead; to provide counsel and aid; and to pray for, teach, and guide them.

Obligation of the Four Corners Church and its leaders to its members

“shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you”

*– Exhortation to elders
1 Peter 5:2*

- We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures.³
- We covenant to seek God’s will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit.⁴
- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service⁵ and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick⁶ or struggling.

¹ Ps. 76:11; Ezek. 20:44; 36:22; Hos. 2:19-20; 3:1,2; Tim. 2:13

² Eph. 5:25

³ 1Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1Pet. 5:1-4

⁴ Acts 20:28; 1Pet. 5:1-5

⁵ Eph. 4:11-13

⁶ James 5:14

- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture.⁷
- We covenant to guard against false teachers.⁸
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary.⁹
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members.¹⁰

Obligation of members of Four Corners Church

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

- Jesus, Luke 9:23

#1 - Membership is for Followers of Jesus

Membership in the local church is something for Christians, those who have been saved by grace through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, sealed by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

#2 - Participating in the Sacraments/Ordinances

Members of our church are to be baptized as an entry sign of their new covenant relationship with God and alignment with his church.¹¹ If you have not been baptized as a believer, we encourage you to do so at our next baptism celebration.

As a follower of Jesus and member of the church you are encouraged to celebrate the Communion¹² each Sunday at our Services. Communion is a place where we celebrate the continued faithfulness of God to his people in Jesus. We also receive spiritual nourishment from him, proclaim the gospel and our trust in it and come in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

#3 - Hearing and Heeding the Word of God

As a member you commit to regularly attending the gatherings of Four Corners to hear and heed the Word of God. All members must agree to our Doctrinal Beliefs (attached) recognizing their willingness to affirm and uphold this teaching. We accept our responsibility to hold to the trustworthy Word¹³ and not to entertain false gospels¹⁴.

#4 - Raising Our Families in the Gospel

⁷ Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6, 1Tim. 5:17-18

⁸ Acts 20:28-31

⁹ Matt. 18:15-20; 1Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1

¹⁰ 1Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12

¹¹ Matthew 28:19

¹² 1 Corinthians 11:24-26

¹³ Titus 1:9

¹⁴ Galatians 1:6-9

As members of Four Corners we acknowledge that the primary place for spiritual formation and discipleship of children is in our families. As a community we desire to help one another in this process by bearing one another's burdens, sharing counsel and wisdom in parenting, and serving and helping ministries which assist raising our children in the gospel.

#5 - Gracious Accountability

As a family we want to offer gracious accountability to one another to live out our mission and core identities while submitting to and supporting biblical leadership. The elders promise to give care to your lives and give account to God for their oversight of the church. As members we want to make their difficult calling more joyful and less burdensome.¹⁵ We commit to resolving conflict with one another in a biblical fashion and refrain from gossip, slander and false testimony about our neighbors. When our lives stray from the truth or if we continue the practice of unrepentant sin, we will accept gracious accountability and discipline from one another and be willing to submit to discipline from church leadership should the need arise (the goal of such being love, reconciliation and repentance so that the gospel is seen and God is honored).¹⁶

#6 – Stewardship and Giving

As Christians, we delight in being good stewards of what God has so graciously given us. Because Jesus gave us everything we are compelled to give, not out of compulsion or for meritorious reward; but because we have an overwhelming desire to do so that flows from the very Gospel itself.¹⁷ Our members take the responsibility and make the commitment to fund the mission of God through our church. We do not expect or ask visitors to our church to provide the necessary resources for our mission. We trust God, through our members, to provide the bulk of the finances necessary for the ministry. If you do not plan to contribute financially to Four Corners, you should not consider membership. All of our finances are open for accountability to any member at any time.

#7 - Serving Others on Mission

God has given talents and spiritual gifts to each one of his people for the building up of the body of Christ and for doing the work of the ministry. We expect all our members to give time and talent in our work together. Far too often, a small number of committed individuals do all the work for a cause. (Statistically, 20% of individuals do 90% of the work.) We find this ridiculous and want everyone to play a part in the ministry of the Four Corners family. The primary means of expected service is both in and through GCGs.

¹⁵ Hebrews 13:17

¹⁶ 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:13-15

¹⁷ 2 Corinthians 8

A.) *For the Church:*

Engaging in genuine community automatically sets you up for service in our church. Being involved in each other's lives gives members unique abilities to recognize needs and serve fellow members. Four Corners also has various ministry teams always in need of dedicated people willing to serve. The following are some areas of service:

- + Four Corners Kids – teaching children
- + Music/Bands – leading our community in music and song
- + Audio/Video – helping with sound, computers
- + Set-Up and Tear Down – This must be done every week. We all should help.
- + Hospitality – greeting visitors and welcoming friends on Sunday mornings
- + Serving within your Gospel Community in various ways

B.) *For the World:*

We expect all of our members to build relationships with those outside of the faith. We aim to fulfill the Great Commission¹⁸ by traveling through life with people who do not know Jesus, so that the Gospel may take root and produce fruit in their life. Because we have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation, we now take up the mission of reconciliation as ambassadors for Christ, as God makes his appeal through us.¹⁹

#8 - Gospel Community Groups

In order to develop and maintain a genuine community of believers we require that members of Four Corners Church be a part of a Gospel Community Group. Authentic Christian relationships require an aspect of intentionality — especially in our highly individualized culture. We are convinced that it is in *this* type of environment — groups of Christians who develop Christ-centered intimacy in close community with one another — that we are able to experience true spiritual growth and sanctification. The GCGs are where all seven of the previously listed seven covenantal aspects practically come together, and/or where they are most effectively cultivated.

¹⁸ Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁹ 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Understandings of Gospel Life and Church Planting

Highs and Lows: Gospel life and mission is incredibly exciting. It is also enormously hard. As well as times of celebration, rejoicing, fulfillment, and deep community, there may also be times of pain, frustration, financial challenge, loneliness, and disappointment.

Don't Expect Perfection: Even though we have the opportunity to build a church that is passionate about Jesus and his mission, we will still have unmet expectations with our community as well. It will not be the perfect church and will not satisfy us in every way.

Sacrifice will be the norm, not the exception: I understand that following Jesus on mission will require an “all hands on deck” mentality. However, I commit to be candid with the leadership when my service is causing my life to be imbalanced. We want to care for one another in this.

Building Trust in Leadership: There will be times that we think the church should go in one direction but the leadership will take it in a different direction. When this happens, we understand that even when we don't agree we will stand behind them, believing the best about them, assuming they are wisely and prayerfully doing what God would have them to do.

No Entitlement: We are asking God to do a special work in our community through our labors. Our reason for being a part of this community is not based in any way on what we hope happens in the future for us personally. We are in this for His glory, the good of others and not our own glory. As members of this local body we are to be committed to the “good of the team.” We will need to hold our responsibilities with open hands at all times. We will need to serve with a joyous flexibility that will allow us to constantly be shaped into a more efficient tool to be used by God. We should desire to train apprentices in a discipleship model with a desire that they will eventually surpass our own ability in order to make the ministry more effective.

Cheering for the Big “C” Church: I (we) commit to building up other local churches. We are not in competition with them. Just as individuals within four corners are placed in different roles that function together for a common goal, all Christian churches make up The Body of Christ on the general mission of making disciples of all nations. However, each local church tends to play out specific roles and functions God has placed them in to their respective communities and to the world as distinct members of the united body. If we really desire to see Jesus' mission go forward in our community, then we will not be competing for church folks; rather we will direct our outreach efforts toward the mass of humanity currently living apart from Christ.

Godly decision: I (we) have sought the Lord in my (our) decision to enter into a covenant membership with Four Corners Church. I am (We are) sure to the best of my (our) knowledge and ability that this is a scripturally grounded, morally sound decision and is being made carefully with an intentionally employed wisdom. I (we) therefore am (are) confident that I am (we are) following God to further his kingdom by establishing Four Corners and a movement of missional

church planting for the good of our communities by extending hope through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Healthy Joining: I understand that while Christianity is true and good, Christians are broken people undergoing sanctification. As such, I understand that while Four Corners welcomes believers into its folds, we desire healthy relationships with other local churches and therefore expect a healthy severing of ties with other bodies of believers prior to coming into covenant membership. Where wrongs may have been done, we believe, as ambassadors of our Sovereign Christ, our members are to be about reconciliation and must do all in their power to seek it if it comes to past church-related wrongs. Joining Four Corners should be a proactive decision not a reactive decision.

Healthy Parting: I (we) understand that our commitment to this church is not to be taken lightly. I (we) will be an integral part of the Body of Christ. If at some point, I am (we are) compelled to serve in another missionary field or with another local church, I (we) commit to making this decision in the midst of community by seeking counsel and discussing with church leadership. It will always be my goal to preserve unity in this community and not seek to selfishly harm God's work for my own agendas.

Yearly Covenant: I (we) understand that expectations are extremely hard to control and sometimes changes need to take place to grow and develop into an more effective Gospel Community of Worshiping and Serving Theologians on Mission. Therefore, to accommodate possible adjustments in our covenant and to review and refresh our accountability with the leadership and vice versa we will revisit this covenant membership contract on a yearly basis.