

# COVENANT ◦ HOPE ◦ FELLOWSHIP

## Membership Process

The Covenant Hope Fellowship membership covenant was created out of a desire to inform and equip members of CHF as to their responsibilities to the church, the church's responsibilities to them, and to enhance their experience of fulfillment and joy that comes from following Christ as Lord in a local body of believers. The primary purposes of formal membership at CHF are to foster mutual accountability between members and the church, and between each other, and to affiliate with God's purpose in forming a local body of believers.

The Church universal (i.e., all believers, everywhere) is the means by which God is fulfilling His purposes in the world (2 Corinthians 5:17-20). The Church universal is being used to write God's beautiful and dramatic story of redemption and reconciliation. In light of this reality, the invitation to join a local church body is much more than a commitment to consistent attendance or active involvement in small groups. It is also a sacred call to be involved in the redemptive work of our sovereign God to push back the darkness of a fallen world through the power of the Holy Spirit with the light of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Membership at Covenant Hope is participation in a family, a microcosm of the universal household of God. All members are united to Christ and thus to each other. Unity within the church is expressed in love for God and a love for others, both those within the family and those who are not. Because of the identification of Christ with His church, Christians are expected to display His gospel in a manner that is worthy of Him (Ephesians 4:1).

### **What Is a Covenant and Why Have One for Church Membership?**

A covenant is generally defined as a formal and serious agreement or

promise. In light of the description of the church above, membership within the church should be a serious commitment.

This covenant is first and foremost an acknowledgement of general Christian obligations and an agreement to enter into those duties for God's glory and the good of the church body. When members believe, live, and serve as Christian people should, an atmosphere of loving and encouraging accountability, fellowship, and service should arise. To that end, the invitation to membership at Covenant Hope Fellowship is now open to anyone who participates or has participated in the following four acts:

- 1) Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone
- 2) Believers baptism
- 3) Membership Orientation
- 4) Recognition of intent to join

Anyone wishing to do so may from this point forward make these desires known, and CHF will gladly welcome any such person. Anyone who wishes to know more about any of these steps at any point, is that much more welcome to ask any questions they may have about God, Jesus Christ, the Gospel, the church or any other such matter so that they may ensure that they are at peace with the Lord Jesus Christ and to know the love of the family of God.

From this point forward, anyone coming to CHF that expresses a desire to join the church will have the opportunity to sit down with one of us, share their testimony, listen to the orientation, and ask any and all questions they may have about any aspect of the church or the membership process, and they will likewise then be invited to participate in this same way.