



*"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*  
**JOHN 10:10 NIV**

# CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

First, let me say how much I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to participate in our Growth Track. Helping you go further faster.

Christ Covenant is a growing community of believers. And as believers, we are to live out our Christian lives in the context of the local church. In the same way that the physical body has different, interconnected members, Paul tells us that we are “members of one another.” (Eph 4:25)

While you could remain a guest of Christ Covenant or even a regular attendee of our services, the real value of church is when we partner together to see our vision fulfilled - *heaven full and hell empty*.

We have created this resource manual to help you more effectively understand the overarching vision of Christ Covenant Church.

Here are some helpful hints on how to get the most from this manual:

- 01.** Take time to study the scriptural outlines. It will lay the foundation for all that we do!
- 02.** Carefully read each and every part of this manual so you can be informed of our heart for the house.

By being here today, you have demonstrated you are a person of action and commitment to personal and ministry growth. My mission is to give you the tools and resources you need to be who God has called you to be and to do all that God has called you to do.

Standing Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Weems', with a vertical line extending downwards from the start of the signature.

Ryan Weems  
**Senior Pastor | Christ Covenant Church**

## **WELCOME TO THE CHRIST COVENANT FAMILY**

Every family has their own unique history and stories. At holidays and family gatherings, we all recite our favorite stories that define who we are. Christ Covenant Church is no exception. We want to tell you about our history and some of the stories that capture who we are as a church, because becoming a member of Christ Covenant means that you are now adding to the Christ Covenant story.

### **YOU BELONG IN THIS STORY:**

Imagine a place where people came together to contribute to the greater good of others. A place where people come to give rather than take. A place to love irrationally and to be loved unconditionally. That place is the church.

# VISION, VALUES AND METHOD

## OUR VISION:

To see heaven full and hell empty.

### **ACTS 2:42-47 (NKJV)**

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

### **We See A Model for Blessing.**

- a. Focus on God
- b. People are the beneficiary
- c. Stuff is used

## **OUR VALUES:**

The Four Primary Values of Christ Covenant Church

### **01. WEEKEND SERVICES**

We believe that programs alone cannot change people's hearts. However, an encounter with the living God always changes people. Sundays are the place where people can be introduced to the intimate and life-changing presence of God. We worship God in a way that draws people into His presence. Our preaching and teaching are also designed to reveal God and open the way into His presence.

### **02. NEXT GENERATION**

Our children's and student ministries aren't times for babysitting or mere entertainment. They're fun and youth-centric but also purposeful and God-focused. God wants to impact the children and students at Christ Covenant and at the same time, change their parents.

Mozart composed beautiful symphonies by the age of ten. Josiah became the king of Judah at the age of nine. At the age of eight, Johnny Smith carried a bullfrog in the pocket of his pants two miles just so he could scare his sister... kids will be kids.

What if a church focused its heart, resources and efforts on continually reaching the next generation? The fact is we're losing America because we are losing our kids and the church continues to spend all of its money on reaching adults. If we don't reach this next generation, everything we've been fighting for in America for the last 200 years will be lost.

America is now the third largest unreached people group in the world and if 85% of people come to Christ before age 18, so isn't it reasonable that more of our money, time and effort be put into reaching young people?

At Christ Covenant Church, we believe in reaching kids right where they are - whether they're Mozart or Johnny. That's why our Children's Ministry strives to create an atmosphere filled with fun, laughter and the presence of God. Our programs are designed to attract the hearts of children in such a way that they truly want to come back each week and meet with God, bullfrogs and all.

What about our students? Remember what it was like to be a teenager - all of the peer pressure, voices and body changes, trying to find your identity and many,

many firsts? We do! And we know it's not easy for students and oftentimes for the rest of the family. Our Student ministries are about making this season of life as healthy, exciting and Godly as possible.

We exist to reach students with the life-changing love of Jesus Christ; encouraging them in a lifestyle of worship, connecting them with other believers, teaching them to grow toward spiritual maturity and equipping them to serve.

### **03. EXPANSION**

We encourage relational, marketplace and lifestyle evangelism that spreads Christianity in a spontaneous, life-giving way. Our goal is to make disciples by taking the message of the gospel to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

Making disciples implies that evangelism is first. When Jesus said to go and make disciples, He didn't mean to go find saved people and teach them the Bible. He meant to go find lost people, lead them to Jesus and teach them how to become wholly devoted followers of Christ.

Our "**Jerusalem**" is Houston

Our "**Judea**" is the Houston Metroplex

Our "**Samaria**" is America

Our "**Ends of the Earth**" is the Entire World

#### **Missions**

The Great Commission is at the core of everything we do in Missions. It's why Christ Covenant strives to give 10% of its funds to support local and global ministries. In addition, we will consistently provide short-term mission trips for experiencing missions first hand.

#### **Outreach**

"For God so loved the world that He gave..." **JOHN 3:16**

Through our local outreaches you have the opportunity to minister and give to those in your immediate city, state and nation. From greeting troops as they return home, ministering to women and children at shelters, assisting single moms and the elderly, meeting the needs of those affected by crisis and natural disaster; we have ways for you to get involved.

## **Expansion Campuses**

The future is bright for Christ Covenant. We have a vision to be One Church meeting in multiple locations. As our growth continues, so will our campuses.

## **04. GROUPS**

Many recent studies indicate that churchgoers are more fulfilled, prosperous and successful overall than those who aren't involved in church. This isn't surprising because God designed people for meaningful relationships - with Him and with others. We were made to belong, to be part of a community of people living life together.

At Christ Covenant Church, we believe the best environment for lasting life change is within community. Besides faith in Jesus, nothing else reaps such rich rewards as being deeply and meaningfully connected with others.

*“Community is one of the most powerful concepts in the Bible. Genesis begins with it, and Revelation closes with it. It is God's people living together with God at their center. It is the way of life out of which evangelism and discipleship emerge. Community is where we learn the truth about ourselves, where we are deeply loved, where walls are broken down and where people who are usually excluded are included.” - Nancy Ortberg*

Connect Groups are small groups whose purpose is to help people grow together, serve God together and live life together. The relaxed, comfortable environment of a Connect Group is the perfect place to develop meaningful friendships with people who genuinely care for you while growing together spiritually. In the process, you grow from being one individual in a congregation to being a connected member within a community.

### **The Purpose of Connect Groups.**

Is to intentionally create safe small group environments where individuals engage in a lifestyle of spiritual growth and authentic community.

## **OUR METHOD:**

### **01. HOSPITALITY**

When someone walks through our church doors, we get excited and welcome that person with the love and kindness of God. There is a strong temptation in every church to become cliquish, but this is a scheme of the enemy. God's desire is that no one would perish, and that all would come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9) The closer we get to God, the greater our capacity to enlarge our circle of love and find room for more people in our hearts. People must come before programs and our own church traditions.

### **02. COMMUNICATIONS**

We value the communication of God's word in a diversity of styles and methods that creatively engage each group of people we set out to reach.

In addition, we believe in strong communication with our print, web and invitational pieces.

### **03. COMMUNITY**

His church isn't designed to be an organization, but to be an organism - alive and growing together.

### **04. TEAM**

Ephesians 4:3 instructs us to endeavor, or work, to keep unity. To flow together as a team. We desire to be people of humility and kindness and not allow offenses to take root in us. According to Acts 2:1 the early church was all together and in one accord. Our governing elders will not take action unless there is agreement and unity. We desire to believe the best about our brothers and sisters and not gossip or talk about others in a negative way. This is very important for the good of each person and the health of the church.

### **05. MULTIPLICATION**

We want to impact the 6+ million people in the Houston area. This includes planting congregations throughout the Metroplex so that more people can be reached. Our goal is to transform Houston with Christ's love.

### **06. EXCELLENCE**

If we served a mediocre God, then we could do things in a mediocre way. However, because we serve an awesome God, we strive to do our best in everything we do. This means that we show excellence in all areas of service. We



desire to do all of our work as unto the Lord in a spirit of excellence (Colossians 3:23). That does not mean we value perfectionism or extravagance. Our value is in cultivating a culture where we give our best to God.

# WHAT WE ASK OF EACH OF OUR MEMBERS

Each member of Christ Covenant Church must make five vital commitments.

## 01. A commitment to be faithful to scripture

### **2 TIMOTHY 4:2-4 (NIV)**

*Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*

Practical, transparent revelation that feeds people where they live and provides answers to the problems of life is what draws people to Christ Covenant Church.

We are committed to teaching and preaching God's Word - the Bible - as the final authority over every area of life. We desire to present relevant truths so that we can be people with humility and strong moral character. God's Word always points us back to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

## 02. A commitment to be faithful to church leadership and to one another

### **1 CORINTHIANS 1:10 (NKJ)**

*Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

Pastor Ryan Weems is our Senior Pastor and serves as the head of our leadership team. As such, he is focused on leading Christ Covenant Church through inspired vision, direction and preaching. Under him serves pastors who are responsible for implementing the vision of the church through the various departments and ministries. Together, our team is focused on God and we are committed to serving your family as the primary work of building a great local church.

We are evangelical, focusing on biblical teaching and preaching more than church tradition as the guide to church behavior. This allows the leadership of Christ Covenant to govern the church based on the sensitivity to God's leading and direction in regards to vision, budgets, policies, formal standards and needs-based ministry.

## **What is our leadership structure?**

- Senior Pastor Led
- Elder Governed
- Staff and Volunteer Run
- And accountable to our local congregation

## **03. Make friends**

As a member, you become responsible to God to cultivate God given relationships.

### **PROVERBS 18:24 (NKJV)**

*A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

## **4 Ways to create community at Christ Covenant.**

- Get "fellowship" right.** Greek word is actually "contribution"
- Look out for "aloners."** Develop community minded vision
- Don't wait for the church to connect you.** Invite someone for coffee, dinner
- Thick skin - Tender heart.** Don't take easy offense or have an immature hardened heart

## **04. A commitment to be a faithful steward of the vision, values and methods**

Jesus lived a life of a committed faithful servant. He said that He did not come to serve but to serve. We desire to walk in true humility and serve one another. Jesus tells us that the greatest in His kingdom shall be the servant of all.

We desire to have an attitude that will faithfully serve the vision, values and methods of Christ Covenant, now and years to come.

## **05. Each Christ Covenant Member is expected to steward their tithe and talents**

The financial operation of the church is dependant upon the faithful and obedient giving of its members. Part of any church's membership responsibility involves faithfully tithing. But this isn't the only reason we include this as part of the 5 responsibilities of members. While giving is just a part of the overall stewardship of what God has given to us, we are a giving church. Giving is a part of Pastor Ryan's life message, and it has come to define who we are at Christ Covenant.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” **MATTHEW 6:21**

**a. Giving is directed to God**

Even though giving is directed to the church as a storehouse, it’s acknowledged as being given to God. Our giving, then is an expression of our love for Him and is done out of obedience to Him. It becomes an extension of our personal worship. (Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 23:23; Mark 12:43).

**b. Giving is an expression of our stewardship and God’s lordship in our lives**

Our stewardship includes our time, our gifts and our talents, as well as our treasure. (Matthew 6:21; Luke 16:13).

**c. Giving has a profound, practical effect on our lives**

God has promised that He will rebuke the devourer as we give. (Malachi 3:11). God will always bless the giver, because God Himself is a Giver (Luke 6:38). We don’t believe in withholding our giving as a form of disagreement or a “statement” about the direction of the church. We give to bless the work of God with no strings attached.

## **HERE IS WHAT MEMBERS OF CHRIST COVENANT CAN EXPECT FROM OUR CHURCH**

There are many benefits to joining Christ Covenant Church. Our passion is for people to feel like they are the best-pastored people in the world. We want to share life together and build lasting relationships. The benefits available to those committing themselves to the Covenant of Fellowship include:

**01.** A commitment from Pastoral leadership to **lead** and **feed** this local body with diligence and excellence

**02.** Clear **communications**

**03. Priority** membership development and services

**04. Prayer** support for family, jobs, companies, etc.

**05.** Consistent ministry and financial **progress** reports

**06.** The **corporate blessings** of Christ Covenant Church

**07.** A healthy **spiritual community** where you, your family and your friends can thrive and grow

# CHRIST COVENANT STATEMENT OF FAITH

This is a summary Statement of faith for Christ Covenant Church.

## **About God:**

We believe in the one triune God revealed in the Bible: the Father; Jesus Christ, the Son; and the Holy Spirit. He is creator, redeemer, and the sovereign ruler of creation. He is the author of truth, love, and faith (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:15-23).

## **About The Bible:**

We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and our standard for faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

## **About Sin:**

We believe that man was created in the image of God. Through disobedience mankind is separated from God, and without God, he is without hope (Genesis 1:26-28; Romans 5:17).

## **About Salvation:**

We believe man's salvation is through renouncing his self-determination, taking responsibility for his disobedience; turning from his sin, and seeking forgiveness from God (Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9).

Further we believe such a penitent person must put his faith in Jesus Christ, whom we believe to be the Incarnate Son of God. Jesus died substitutionally for man's transgressions, was raised from the dead on the third day, and ascended back to the Father.

## **About Covenant Life:**

We believe God is a covenant-making and covenant-keeping God; that is, He has made promises to those who respond to His love by committing their lives to Him (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

## **About The Church:**

We believe the very nature and purpose of God is revealed in His Church. Jesus came and established it as His Body in the earth. We believe the Church Universal consists of all who live under the lordship of Jesus, while the Church Local is a body of believing people, baptized and joined together, practicing the new

covenant. Since the Church is one as God is one, the Church Local must seek to walk in harmony with the Church Universal.

**About The Holy Spirit:**

There are many experiences that are valid encounters with God, the Holy Spirit. "Baptism in the Holy Spirit", "filled with the Holy Spirit", "anointed with the Holy Spirit" are among those scriptural terms used to describe such encounters with the Holy Spirit. These experiences should produce greater commitment to God's will, greater realization of His power, and greater edification of His Church (Acts 2:28).

**About The Priesthood Of The Believer:**

We believe in the priesthood of the believer. By the shedding of His blood, Jesus has become the believer's High Priest and has made it possible for each Christian to have free access to the presence of the Father. In His presence, each one can come to know God and to receive from Him. Each Christian, likewise, is responsible to come to the Father in confidence and faith as a priest unto Him under the new covenant. There he is to minister both the worship of his lips and the worship of his life sacrificially presented to God (1 Peter 2:4-12).

**About Freedom Of Conscience:**

We believe in freedom of conscience. One is responsible for his own choices and behavior. While God has ordained both civil and spiritual government, we believe each person is still directly accountable to Him. Therefore, pastors and churches can give direction, but all service must be rendered voluntarily, joyfully, and from a free conscience (Romans 14:9-12; Philippians 2:5-8; John 10:14-18).

**About Evangelism:**

We believe in world evangelism. We accept the commission of Jesus Christ, who is Lord, to make disciples of all nations, to baptize them, and teach them to observe His commandments. We join with those believing in Him to accomplish this urgent task. We accept this as a personal commission as well as a commission to the entire Church (Matthew 28:16-20).

**About Ecumenism:**

Our understanding is that God views His people as one people. This is true historically and currently. All Christians share in the responsibility for division and reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Ephesians 3:14; Ephesians 4:4-6).

**About Civil Authority:**

We believe God is the author of all authority. He has ordained civil government for the establishment of order and peace in the nations. He has ordained government in His Church to bring it to righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. We believe there should be mutual respect between civil and spiritual authority. While civil authority is separated from church government, it should not be separated from God and His law.

**About Financial Giving:**

We believe the Church should be supported financially by those committed to its mission. We further believe that when people serve God with a free spirit, there is financial abundance to accomplish God's purpose (Genesis 14:17-20; Malachi 3:6-12; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7).

**About Christ's Return:**

We believe Jesus Christ will return to earth in a visible way. His purpose will be to manifest His government in the earth. Christians are exhorted to be watchful and obedient until His appearing. While there are many viewpoints concerning His second coming, we believe Christians should lovingly look for His appearing, giving full attention to obedience while He tarries. We believe His appearing will occasion the resurrection of the righteous who have died and who are now with Him (1 Corinthians 15).

**About Judgment:**

We believe in a final judgment at the end of the age. The righteous and the wicked shall stand before Him and be judged. Those who have righteousness produced by faith will be rewarded with the privilege of ruling and enjoying His eternal blessings. Those who are wicked will be eternally punished (Matthew 25:31-46).

---

*These principles of our faith are foundations for God's continuing leadership in our lives. We realize that our statement of faith does not relieve us of the responsibility to live by faith. We gratefully acknowledge those who have served Him in ages past, and we bless them in their eternal state for their faithfulness. We acknowledge those who serve Jesus Christ now, whose doctrinal expressions may be different from our own. We desire to walk with them as brothers and sisters. Our statements are not to be walls, but doors through which others may communicate with us and we with them.*



# **VOLUNTEERING IN YOUR AREA OF GIFTEDNESS**

You are unique, created by God for a special purpose. A one-of-a-kind masterpiece.

The Bible calls you a saint as a believer. Your unique design points to your place in God's kingdom. No one on earth is designed to reveal the attributes of God in the same way you do. Together we are living stones, designed by God to build a temple of praise for His glory. As each of us steps up to serve God in the role that He intends, we can reveal Jesus to the world around us. We are passionate about seeing you released into your destiny and your area of giftedness. We invite you to participate in what God is doing at Christ Covenant by joining our team of volunteers.

**At Christ Covenant, we have three basic beliefs about volunteering.**

## **01. Every person has a place of service by God's design**

### **1 CORINTHIANS 12:18-20 (NIV)**

*But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 tell us that God intended for the church to be like a physical body in that each person has a place and a function. Just like our bodies require each part to do its job in order to function correctly, so also the church needs each member to find his or her place in the body in order to be healthy and function correctly.

## **02. Every person has a gift to use for service**

### **1 PETER 4:10 (NIV)**

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

God has placed a gold mine within you in the form of your spiritual gifts, and He wants you to use those gifts in some form of service to help others. When you serve others with the gifts God has given you, something supernatural happens -

you experience a divine sense of fulfillment and purpose. At Christ Covenant, we want you to serve in a way that uses these gifts.

Do you know your place? Do you know your gift(s)? If not, our teams can help you find your place in the body, identify your gifts of service and connect you with ministry leaders who will help you serve in the perfect area for you.

### **03. Every person is more important than the task at hand**

#### **EPHESIANS 4:11-13 (NIV)**

*It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

Our goal is to equip people for the works of service; our emphasis is on the equipping. In other words, we're focused on your individual growth, not our needs and plans. There's always a need for more people to serve, but we don't recruit out of our need. We recruit out of a desire to invite you to experience the complete plan God has for your life. Our interest is in what you are becoming more than what you are doing.

If you'd like to discover the joy of participating in volunteer service, please let us know so we can help you find the right fit.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- 01** Water Baptism
- 02.** Volunteering
- 03.** Connect Groups
- 04.** Church Membership

# CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

## MY MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

I will protect the unity of my church by maintaining a redemptive attitude toward my church family and leaders. I will practice the same forgiveness I hope to receive.

I will share in the life of my church by praying for its health, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming any who visit our gatherings.

I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents and willingly serving as the need or opportunity arises.

I will contribute to the success of my church by supporting its biblical mission and values through my faithful attendance and joyful giving.

---

Signature

---

Date

---

Print Name

---

Signature

---

Date

---

Print Name