



Church Covenant

The Elberta Church covenant is our mutual and voluntary agreement to keep and obey the biblical obligations of membership in this church. Membership is contingent upon agreement with and positive affirmation of this covenant.

The members of Elberta Church will, as the elders in mutual agreement determine to be necessary, renew and reaffirm this covenant as part of the life of the church.

COVENANT AGREEMENT

The Pastors to the Elberta Church Body:

As shepherds and overseers of this local church, your Pastors are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping, and caring for the corporate church body and her individual members. In a desire to fulfill the Scriptural requirements of eldership, the Pastors of Elberta Church covenant:

- To prayerfully seek God's will for our church family and steward the resources God has entrusted to this church to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following the leadership of the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1–4).
- To care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth and love (Matt. 28:16–20; Eph. 4:15–16; Col. 1:28; James 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:1–4).
- To provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27–28; 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:1–5; Titus 2:1).
- To equip all members of the church for the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11–16).
- To be on guard against false teachers and teachings (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:28–31; 1 Tim. 1:3–7; 1 John 4:1).
- To lovingly exercise discipline, when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole (Matt. 18:15–20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1; James 5:19–20).
- To set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated below (Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7–8; 1 Pet. 5:3).

The Members of the Elberta Church Body:

As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the person and work of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to reflect His character through the pursuit of certain attitudes and actions and the rejection of others. The Scriptures refer to this reality as "living by the Spirit" (Rom. 8).

This membership covenant is in no way intended to be an addition to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, it functions primarily as a reminder of what the Scriptures teach about the obedience that faith produces.

As a member of Elberta Church, I covenant:

- To submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:14–17; 2 Pet. 1:19–21).
- To pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 9:24–27; Eph. 5:1–21; 1 Thess. 5:12–22).
- To follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church:
 - by being baptized after my conversion.
 - by regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion.
- To regularly participate in the life of Elberta Church by attending weekly services, engaging in gospel-centered community and serving those within and outside of this church (Acts 2:42–47; Heb. 10:23–25; Titus 3:14).
- To steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances. This includes regular financial giving, service and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful and voluntary (Matt. 25:14–30; Rom. 12:1–2; 2 Cor. 8–9; 1 Pet. 4:10–11).
- By God’s grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:13–16, 4:1–3). We will strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit.
- To refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Rom. 14:14–23).
- To take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Cor. 8:1–13).
- To submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by:
 - following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.
 - receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15–20; 1 Cor. 5:9–13; Heb. 12:5–11).
- To do the following when I sin:
 - confess my sin to God and to fellow believers.
 - repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6–10).
- To submit to and pray for the pastors and other appointed leaders of the church and to diligently strive for unity and peace within the church (Eph. 4:1–3; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:5).
- To do the following should I leave the church for righteous reasons:
 - to notify a pastor.
 - to seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.