

*"Christian community is not an ideal we have to realize, but rather **a reality created by God in Christ** in which we may participate. The more clearly we learn to recognize that the ground and strength and promise of all our community is in Jesus Christ alone, the more calmly we will learn to think about our community and pray and hope for it."*

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

For God.
For Abington.
For the World.

MEMBER COVENANT



TRINITY
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Our satisfaction in God is incomplete until it's properly expressed and enjoyed in committed community. God's gifts to us elicit worship from us that should reverberate among us. This praise is best practiced and enjoyed in committed, covenanted membership.



trinitychurchabington.com

What Is a Church Covenant?

A church covenant is all about relationships—some of the most important relationships you'll ever have. Very simply, a church covenant is a solemn, joyful pledge we make to one another to treasure God, His Word and His gospel together in community.

Jesus redeemed us, by covenant, to be His people. And, He did not just ransom individuals. Rather, He ransomed a people—a body, a bride, a house—for Himself. Jesus' covenant with us demands that we form visible assemblies called churches which, themselves, covenant together to be Jesus' body for each other, for their communities, for the world, and for the glory of God.

But, if we want to remain faithful through good times and bad, we're going to need a network of deep relationships. We all know that the very nature of relationships is that they require commitment to flourish. It's always popular to talk a lot about "community" but "commitment" is another story altogether. This covenant helps solidify and articulate our specific, conscious commitments to one another.

Further, this covenant helps us visualize which Christians, in particular, we are committed to and covenanted with. When you decide to become a member of Trinity, you're basically taking all the commitments that the Bible calls you to make to other Christians and publicly declaring that you're especially making these commitments to this particular group of Christians here at Trinity.

Trinity's covenant is a summary of the commitments we make to each other when we join this church. It is our practice to frequently recite this covenant together so

that its cadences get into our bones. We deeply desire our covenant promises to progressively become our cultural norms.

What Is Trinity's Church Covenant?

As those who have been brought by sovereign grace to repent and believe in Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior, and Treasure of our lives, and having been baptized, we solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other as one body in Christ.

By the Spirit's help:

1. We joyfully submit to the Scriptures as the final authority on all issues.
2. We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, being slow to take offense, and diligently pursuing reconciliation when necessary.
3. We will remember one another in prayer, exercise affectionate care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully admonish and encourage one another.
4. We will pursue Jesus through the ordinary means of grace (like Scripture reading and prayer) and will encourage the same in one another.
5. We will regularly gather together, engaging in gospel community, rejoicing with each other's happiness, and bearing one another's burdens and sorrows.
6. We will seek to live carefully and honorably before the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, remembering that we have been buried with Christ and raised with him to walk in newness of life.
7. We will protect the worship, communion, and doctrines of this church.

8. We will welcome and humbly test the biblical instruction given by the pastors of this church.

9. We will give joyfully, sacrificially, regularly, and within our means to support the ministry of this church and the spread of the gospel to all nations.

10. We commit to make and mobilize faithful disciples of Jesus in our communities and around the world.

11. We commit to embrace the procedures of loving, gracious, and biblical discipline.

12. We commit that, when we move from this place, we will join a like-minded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen.