



BEACH LAKE FM CHURCH

Partnership Covenant

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

I. THE INSPIRED WORD

We believe the 66 books of the Bible are the Word of God, fully inspired by Him, without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration and instruction of the Person of the Holy Spirit. The Bible, having ultimate authority in all matters, speaks to every situation in life.

References: II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20,21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32

II. THE TRINITY

We believe there is only one living and true God who is sovereign over the entire universe, one in essence, who exists in three Persons, who are equal in every way, each having distinct offices but working harmoniously to bring glory to Himself. We believe He is perfect in all His ways.

References: Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19, 20; Ephesians 4:5, 6

III. GOD THE FATHER

We believe the first Person of the Trinity is God the Father, who is infinite, and desires to have a personal relationship with us. We believe that He perfectly knows and has power over all things that will come to pass, He graciously concerns Himself with the affairs of man, He hears and answers prayer, and He saves from sin and death any and all who come to Him through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

References: Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; I Timothy 1:1,2; 2:5,6; I Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6

IV. GOD THE SON – JESUS CHRIST

We believe the second Person of the Trinity is Jesus Christ, the unique Son of God the Father, incarnated through the Holy Spirit. We believe He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, did miracles and signs, and taught truth. We believe His death on the cross was a substitutionary, propitiatory, atoning, and reconciling sacrifice, He was raised from the dead [Section VI], He ascended into heaven, and is perpetually interceding before the throne of God for His people. We also believe He will return to establish His kingdom and reign for eternity.

References: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:46; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; 4:10; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9,10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; I Timothy 3:16; Revelation 21:1-3

V. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the third person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit, sent to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. We believe the Holy Spirit regenerates, sanctifies, and empowers all who follow Jesus Christ, indwelling every follower of Jesus, and is their helper, teacher, and guide.

References: John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26, 27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22- 26

VI. THE GOSPEL

We believe God created man in His own image, that man and God were once in perfect community in the Garden of Eden, and that man sinned and therefore brought upon all humankind physical, spiritual, and eternal death, which is separation from God. As a result, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and choose to sin, bringing upon themselves condemnation. We believe those who turn from their vain efforts and trust Jesus Christ alone [Section IV] are regenerated by the Holy Spirit [Section V], becoming new creatures, and are delivered from condemnation, receiving eternal life.

References: Genesis 1:26; 5:2; Genesis 3; Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Ecclesiastes 2:11; Matthew 11:25-27; Luke 10:21-22; John 3:14; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 19:3, 20; 20:10; 14, 15; 21:18; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1

VII. THE CHURCH

We believe in the worldwide and timeless Church, of which Jesus Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We also believe in the local church, consisting of a group of followers of Jesus Christ; baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, ministry, and fellowship. We believe God has commanded the members of the local church to join together in the mission of the worldwide Church to be the primary messengers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

References: Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25; Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:18, 20

VIII. THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

We believe a Christian should live for the glory of God, whose conduct should be blameless before the world, who should be a faithful steward of His possessions, and should be continually living as a disciple of Jesus and a disciple-maker for Jesus.

References: 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-2; John 14:15, 23-24; 1 John 2:3-6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Colossians 1:9-10; Matthew 28:18-20

IX. THE ORDINANCES

We believe Jesus Christ has ordained two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of the believer into water in the name of the triune God, symbolizing the believer's immersion into the death of Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ at the Last Supper for the remembrance of His sacrifice on the cross. We believe these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

References: Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-28; 28:18-20; Acts 8:26-39; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

X. MARRIAGE & SEXUALITY

We believe the common grace of marriage is biblically defined as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman for all of life, instituted as such by God in the Old Testament and reaffirmed by Jesus Christ in the New Testament. It is within this definition of marriage that sexuality is to be expressed and fully enjoyed as a good gift from God (sexual morality). Any deviation from such is sexual immorality.

References: Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:1-7:5; Proverbs 5:18-19; Hebrews 13:4; Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Romans 1:26-27

XI. THE ENEMY

We believe Satan is the god of this world, who desires to undo every good work God has done, is doing, and will do. We believe Satan roams the earth to steal, kill, and destroy, he goes before the throne of the Father to accuse followers of Jesus Christ, and he will be thrown into the lake of fire for the rest of eternity when Jesus returns to establish His kingdom on earth.

References: Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-18; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Peter 5:8; John 10:10; Revelation 12:10; 20:10

XII. THE LAST THINGS

We believe Jesus Christ will physically return to earth to establish His kingdom. We believe followers of Jesus Christ will be bodily resurrected from the dead on this day to reign with Him for one thousand years. At the end of the thousand years, there will be a great and final judgment. Those whose names are found in the book of life will enjoy eternity in the presence of, and in perfect community with, the triune God; and those whose name is not found in the Book of Life will endlessly suffer for all of eternity in the lake of fire.

References: Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Phil. 3:20; I Thessalonians 4:15; II Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 4:5; I Corinthians 15; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4- 6,11-15

VISION STATEMENT

BLFMC's VISION IS...

TO GLORIFY
JESUS CHRIST
BY BEING
WHO MAKE **DISCIPLES**

1 GOAL + 2 RELATIONSHIPS = 1 VISION

GOAL: *GLORIFY JESUS*

We believe the reason of our existence, the chief end of our purpose here on earth, is to make much of Jesus, to worship and glorify Him. We believe we most glorify Him when we not only have faith in the *good news* that Jesus saves, but also when He is our utmost satisfaction and joy. Ultimately, this happens when we each walk in a relationship with Jesus much like His disciples did. We must each *follow Jesus*.

VERTICAL RELATIONSHIP: *FOLLOW JESUS*

We believe that each of us are to enjoy and thrive in a vertical relationship with Jesus, which is vital to accomplishing our goal and overall vision. Therefore, we greatly encourage each individual to maintain a healthy and deep relationship with Jesus as a disciple of His, following Him much like His own disciples did. As we increasingly submit more of our lives to the lordship of Jesus, we are also commanded to help others do the same; we are all commanded to *disciple others*.

HORIZONTAL RELATIONSHIP: *DISCIPLE OTHERS TO JESUS*

Because of the joy we have in knowing Christ and following Him, we take seriously His command to *be disciples who make disciples* (Matt. 28:19). Therefore we aim to equip Jesus-followers with all they need to share the gospel and disciple new believers, maintaining a horizontal relationship with one another. Discipleship is not the ultimate goal of our church, worship is (our goal). We disciple to increase worship (empowered by the Holy Spirit) by helping others to increasingly submit their lives to the Lordship of Jesus. In doing so, we are demonstrating to them and the world the greatest form of love anyone can show.

COVENANTS

What is a Covenant?

A covenant is generally defined as “a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action.”¹ Within the Scriptures, we find several examples of covenants, some between God and man (Gen. 6, 9, 15; Ezek. 20; Hos. 2; Jer. 31; Matt. 26), while others are solely between men (1 Sam. 18; 2 Sam. 5). In some covenants, one party binds him or herself to fulfill the obligations of both sides of the agreement. In others, the parties are reciprocally bound to adhere to the obligations. While God’s covenant with the Church Universal is an example of the former, the local church covenant represents the latter. If at any time one of the parties of this church covenant continues in a state of unfaithfulness to its provisions, the other is released from certain obligations.

The covenant of Beach Lake FM Church contains many conditions that are merely general Christian obligations. For example, all Christians, whether partners of Beach Lake FM Church or elsewhere, are required to submit to the Scriptures, pursue holiness, steward resources, etc. Such requirements are universal obligations for the Jesus-follower, regardless of any failure on the part of local church to live up to her covenant obligations.

If at any time an individual partner feels as though the corporate church body is not remaining faithful to the requirements of the covenant, it is the responsibility of the individual partner to lovingly and humbly express concerns to the leadership of the church. If the church leaders are unwilling to change and pursue covenant faithfulness, then the partner is freed from his or her partnership obligations and encouraged to seek partnership elsewhere given the church’s disobedience. In addition, certain circumstances may provide sufficient and righteous grounds to transfer partnership elsewhere.

While focusing primarily in language on the responsibilities between the individual parties, the corporate church body, her elders, her leaders and her individual partners, the 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 body and bride of His Son.

Biblical Obligations of Beach Lake FM Church

Leaders to Beach Lake FM Church

As shepherds and overseers of a local church, pastors/elders and ministry leaders are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping and caring for the corporate church body and her individual partners. The following is a rather extensive overview of the requirements for church leaders as spelled out within the Scriptures.

The leaders covenant...

- to appoint elders and deacons, including staff members who serve in these offices, according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- to prayerfully seek God’s will for our church community and steward her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following of the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- to care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth and love (Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 1:28; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Includes Index., 10th ed. (Spring eld, Mass., U.S.A.: Merriam-Webster, 1996, c1993).

- to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:1).
- to equip the partners of the church for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16).
- to be on guard against false teachers and teachings (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 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 (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).
- to set an example and join partners in fulfilling the obligations of church partnership stated below (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3).

Partners to Beach Lake FM Church

As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to reflect the character of Christ 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). The requirements of the Partnership Covenant are in no way intended as an addition to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, this document functions primarily as an accessible yet non-exhaustive explanation of what the Scriptures teach about the obedience that faith produces.

I (the partner) covenant...

- to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 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 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 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 Beach Lake FM Church by attending weekly services, engaging in gospel-centered community and serving those within and outside of this church (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Titus 3:14).
- to steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts and treasures. This includes regular financial giving, service and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful and voluntary (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Peter 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 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3); to strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit. Below are a few examples of actions addressed in the Scriptures:
 - I will practice complete chastity unless married and, if married, complete fidelity within heterosexual and monogamous marriage. Complete chastity and fidelity means, among other things, that regardless of my marital status, I will pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, homosexuality, premarital sex, and pornography (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

- I will seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation at Beach Lake FM Church before pursuing divorce from my spouse (Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11; for the role of the church in the process of divorce, see Paul's concern for the resolution of legal matters within the assembly of the church in 1 Corinthians 6).
 - I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful behavior as the Bible dictates (Romans 1:28-32, 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:3-18).
- to refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Romans 14:14-23).
 - to take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Corinthians 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 (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 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 (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10).
 - to submit to the elders and other appointed leaders of the church and diligently strive for unity and peace within the church (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).
 - to do the following should I leave the church for righteous reasons:
 - to notify the appropriate church leader (Pastor, Elder).
 - to seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.
 - to transfer my partnership to this new church

SIGNATURE OF AFFIRMATION

*In signing below, I affirm I have read, am in substantial agreement with, and covenant to uphold **Beach Lake FM Church's Partnership Covenant**, which includes the **Statement of Faith, Vision Statement and Covenants**.*

Printed Name

Date

Signature

*If a married couple (as defined in the **Statement of Faith**) are together pursuing partnership at Beach Lake FM Church, they can prayerfully and symbolically sign this covenant as signer and "co-signer," as such a covenant to a church as articulated in this agreement is strongly encouraged to be made together.*

Co-Signer's Printed Name

Date

Co-Signer's Signature

Once signed, please detach this page and submit it to the church office; please keep this covenant on file for future reference. This document will remain on file for the duration of your partnership with Beach Lake FM Church. If your partnership is transferred to another church and then transferred back, you will be required to review and sign the Partnership Covenant again.



BEACH LAKE FM CHURCH

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