

Having been led by the Spirit of God to repent and believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, having surrendered our lives to Him, and having accepted the Bible as our sole authority of faith and practice, we bind ourselves to each other in Christian unity and love for the glory of God, the good of His people, and the growth of His kingdom.

Submitting to the Spirit of God who leads and refines me in spiritual growth, I covenant...

- to submit to Scripture as the final authority on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- to pursue growth in the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines in order to grow in Christ-likeness and the Fruit of the Spirit (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Galatians 5:22-23; 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 practicing and rejoicing in the gift of baptism (Matthew 28:18-20).
 - by regularly remembering and proclaiming the person and work of Christ through communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
- to regularly participate in the life of VCC by attending weekly services, treasuring our church's weekly opportunity to sing, pray, and receive the whole counsel of God's Word (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Ephesians 5:19).
- to engage in Christ-centered community through Outposts, Bible studies, etc., serving those within and outside of this church, and loving each other as Christ has loved us (John 13:34; Acts 2:42-47; Titus 3:14).
- to bring up those under my care in the nurture and instruction of the Lord, and by pure and loving example, and faithful Gospel witness, to seek the salvation of my family and friends (Ephesians 6:4; Matthew 5:16).
- to steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances. This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in the church community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Matthew 25:14-30; John 13:34; 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). I will strive to put sinful attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit. Below are a few examples of these actions as addressed in Scripture, and chosen as relevant because of the cultural context in which we currently live.
 - I will practice complete sexual purity characterized by faithfulness within heterosexual and monogamous marriage or abstinence if unmarried. This 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; Romans 1:18-32; 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 a process of marriage reconciliation and biblical counseling before pursuing divorce from my spouse (Matthew 19:1-9; 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 guard my Christian freedom while removing myself from such activities and situations that could present a stumbling block to another (Romans 14:14-23, 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 (Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 1 Tim 5:20; Titus 3:10-11).

- receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; Hebrews 12:5-11).

- ▶to do the following when I sin :

- confess my sin to God and to fellow believers (1 John 1:8-10; James 5:16 Proverbs 28:13).

- 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 in so much as they submit to Scripture, and to 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 VCC:

- notify an elder and participate in an exit conversation.

- quickly unite with another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.

Name (Please print)

Signature

Date