

The Elders Covenant Agreement

Preamble

Paul instructs the church to endeavor “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (*Ephesians 4:3*). This is doable because “there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (*Ephesians 4:4-6*).

The Bible also states that apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are given to the church for the purpose of “equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (*Ephesians 4:12*). These offices will stay in the church until “we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (*Ephesians 4:13*). So, the conclusion is that we are to maintain the unity of the Spirit until we come to the unity of the faith. We may have varying views of doctrine, and as leaders, we will have different ways of perceiving the same truths, but unity of the faith will always be subordinated to unity of the Spirit.

Paul further said to the Corinthian believers, “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” (*1 Corinthians 1:10*). He pointed to the disunity in the Corinthian church as a result of being carnal. “For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal? (*1 Corinthians 3:3-4*).

Commitment

The Board of Elders commit to the following principles:

Honor

We honor each one’s calling into the five-fold ministry. We believe that the Lord has given the ministers of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher as His gifts (presents) to the church. Mutual honor is the glue that holds the eldership team together. We will not engage in gossip or slander of a fellow elder. We will not embrace an accusation concerning an elder unless from two or three witnesses (*1 Timothy 5:19*).

Unity

Because there is one mind of the Father, we believe that we can discern the Father’s will and operate in unity. If there are dissenting opinions over any topic and a unified decision cannot be reached, the Board of Elders agrees to postpone decision making, seek the Lord’s mind and direction in prayer, and re-discuss the topic at a subsequent meeting. Decisions made by the Board of Elders will not be made by majority vote. We believe that we can submit to the Holy Spirit and submit to one another and find unity.

Accountability

The eldership team commits to peer-accountability. We will endeavor to forge transparency, realness, and integrity in our relationships. We commit to regularly pray for one another and

ask for prayer when we are vulnerable or struggling in areas of our lives. We will follow the biblical injunction to confess our faults and failures to one another and seek prayer for continued wholeness (*James 5:16*).

Priorities

We will maintain the priorities of God, Spouse, Family, and then, Ministry. These priorities will be incorporated into our lifestyles.

Due to the nature of the topics and conversations held at the Board of Elders' meetings, it is important that each elder hold all information and discussions to the highest level of confidentiality.

I have read, understood, and agree to the *Elders Covenant Agreement* and commit to its governing philosophy and operation.

Name

Signature

Date

Office Use

