

Romans 5:6-11
For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for us...
do for a righteous person, though perhaps a good person...
are even to die for the good people...
shows his love for us...
that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us...
have now been justified by his blood...
shall we be saved...

Covenant Membership Packet

Edition 1 · June 29, 2019

Preparations for The Covenant Membership Packet

Copyright © 2019 By Redemption City Church

Beaverton, Hillsboro, Oregon

All rights reserved. No portion of this packet may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, repackaged, or transmitted in any form or by any means— electronic, mechanical, photocopying, screenshots, recording, or any other avenue of possession without the explicit permission from the Elders at Redemption City Church. **REUSING THIS PACKET OUTSIDE OF ITS INTENDED PURPOSE AT REDEMPTION CITY CHURCH IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Failing to adhere to these prescriptions may result in legal and financial ramifications.

This document was written and is the intellectual property of Brandon K. Rachal. It was approved by the Elders for use at Redemption City Church only.

Published in Beaverton, Oregon.

The information presented within this packet has been thoroughly prayed over. We believe it is chiefly rooted in the perfect Word of God found in Scripture.

[Not yet available for printing]

CONTENTS.

TITLE	PAGE
STEP 1 – INTRODUCTION	4
STEP 2 – OUR HISTORY	5
STEP 3 – OUR MISSION	7
STEP 4 – OUR DNA 8 MARKS	8
4.1 – Marked by the Gospel	9
4.2 – Marked by Grace	9
4.3 – Marked by Generosity	9
4.4 – Marked by Gathering	9
4.5 – Marked by Going	9
4.6 – Marked by Biblical Manhood & Womanhood (Creation & Design)	10
4.7 – Marked by Biblical Manhood & Womanhood (Sin, Redemption, & Application)	10
4.8 – Marked by Unity Within the Family Unit	10
4.9 – Marked by Covenant Family	10
STEP 5 – DNA SERMON SERIES GUIDE	11
5.1 – Sermon Series Step-By-Step Guide Words of Encouragement	12
5.2 – Interacting with The Series DNA Series Assessment	13
STEP 6 – OUR VISION	14
STEP 7 – OUR DOCTRINE	16
STEP 8 – OUR LEADERSHIP	19
STEP 9 – OUR CHURCH BYLAWS	22
STEP 10 – COVENANT MEMBERSHIP	23
10.1 – What is a Church?	24
10.2 – What is a Covenant?	25
10.3 – Role of Elders and Covenant Members	28
10.4 – The Elder’s Covenant to You	29
10.5 – Your Covenant to The Elder’s and Corporate Body	30
10.6 – The Covenant Membership Prayer	32
STEP 12 – QUESTIONNAIRE & SHARING YOUR STORY	33
STEP 13- COVENANT MEMBERSHIP INTERVIEW	34
STEP 14- COVENANT MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION	35

INTRODUCTION.

Interacting with Covenant Membership at Redemption City Church

This packet of resources is intended to provide regular attenders who have already been baptized with the basic and critical information needed about Redemption City Church; prior to moving forward with their journey through our important Covenant Membership process. As a hopeful Covenant Member, doing a careful and prayerful dive through the materials in this packet is truly an important step. Therefore, budget the appropriate time to interact with this packet well. Slowly and prayerfully read through the information so you can learn all that we hope you would about our church and membership process. This approach will also prepare you to take helpful notes regarding any questions you might have. You and/or your family are encouraged to bring these questions up during your covenant membership interview as well.

This packet includes—in condensed written form—much of what is covered within our foundational ten part “Redemption City Church DNA Series” that we launched our church through on June 9, 2019. The contents within this series represents what we hope to be known for, and ultimately marked by. This includes our origin story, church policy, mission, vision, doctrine, a summary of our church bylaws, membership covenant and more. It is our hope and prayer that the Lord might stir up your affections through this process; leading you to see just how Redemption City Church is right for you (and your family) to take steps towards becoming more and more like Jesus...in the image of God.

About the Family

Attending Redemption City Church as a family requires as much unity as possible. (*We acknowledge there are circumstances where that is not possible and is still permissible and God-honoring. Example: An unbelieving spouse refuses to join, but the believing spouse wants to be obedient first to Christ*) However, in a very real sense, the very essence of covenant membership is an individual choice between each individual and GOD regarding their life, their service, and their obedience. So, while families are encouraged to go through covenant membership together, each individual adult must fill out their own covenant membership materials. A family unit is making a collective decision by casting their individual yes in the same direction.

Children within families ages 13 and up are allowed to submit for covenant memberships as well. We believe this is an important step for young people to activate their own faith in their lives. We also believe this gives your children a front foundation of commitment and spiritual safety beyond your walls. The covenant membership process for teenagers is the same as for adults. Parents with children who have grown up at Redemption City Church from a young age, are encouraged to invite their children into covenant membership as they deem their child’s “spiritual readiness.” Our pastors and elders are available to help you discern that readiness. Parents of unbelieving or spiritually defiant children under the age of 18 are strongly urged to bring their children to church as regular attenders, regardless of the child’s desire to attend; exercising faithful obedience to God rooted out of Deuteronomy 6:6-7 and many other passages where God makes this clear. Bringing your children to church is as much of an obedience to God issue for parents as it is an obedience to their parents issue for the child. We join you in fervent prayer, that the Lord might stir your child’s affections to see the beauties of Christ as you are faithfully obedient to his design for the family.

For additional information about covenant membership beyond what is expressed in this packet, please email us at info@myredemptioncc.com.

OUR HISTORY.

Tragedy, Redemption, Hope, and a Church.

On June 9, 2019, a group of people gathered together for the first worship service of Redemption City Church. People from all over the Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tigard area came together to sing, to open the scriptures, and to celebrate something new the Lord was doing in this area. On that first Sunday, there were many emotions: fear, excitement, sadness, joy, and many others. Why so many mixed feelings? Because there was a whole story behind this new story. And God has been working it into motion for over 10 years. This is the story of tragedy, redemption, the hope of God, and a new church.

In the summer of 2006, Brandon took his first step into ministry as a part-time youth pastor at a small local church in California called Reach Worship Center. By the winter of 2007, Brandon became the very first Student Pastor; launching the church's first comprehensive nursery, children, youth, and young adult ministries. Through God's grace, Brandon was able to successfully lead, maintain, and continue the steady growth of new families to the church over the course of 6 years.

It was around that time that the Lord began to stir Brandon's affections towards "the next place" of ministry. Not having a clear direction and vision from the Lord, Brandon; with his wife's support, approached the leadership at the church; requesting a mini-sabbatical where he could attend conferences and seek the Lord about his next steps in ministry. It was during that same season, the senior pastor of the church invited Brandon to consider a succession plan in which he would become the next senior pastor of the church. Brandon agreed.

But on October 22, 2012, Brandon suffered a catastrophic chiropractic injury that dramatically alter the trajectory of his life. Severely debilitated from the neck down, Brandon was forced to relinquish both his pastoral duties and the succession plan to become senior pastor. With the unfortunate diagnosis of Lyme disease shortly after, Brandon's health would continue to deteriorate as he struggled to recover over the next two years. This was a devastating time for him, his family and the church.

In God's providence, Brandon, his wife, and their two children relocated to Oregon in 2014. There he would continue his road to recovery in a long-term physical therapy program. It was during these dark nights of the soul that God began to put a clear vision on Brandon's heart. It was a vision of redemption; not just for himself, but for others. And it was a passionate call to make much of Jesus Christ despite life's tragedies, complexities, and even victories. God was on the move.

While still on the road to recovery, Brandon successfully founded Making Much of Christ Ministries (MMCM) in January of 2016. MMCM originally operated as a web-based organization that produced and distributed gospel-centered resources to a national audience with a featured blog series called, "Finding Joy When the Darkness Won't Lift." The goal was to help people see Jesus as supremely valuable—no matter what life had thrown them. And it was during that season that God placed the desire for Brandon to one day plant a church or revitalize a dying one. And it was during that season of severe suffering that God placed the desire for Brandon to one day plant a church or revitalize a dying one.

Quietly, Brandon prayed and worked on the vision of what a church marked by redemption and making much of Jesus would be marked by and ultimately known for. From covenant membership—>to life on life relationships...from a strong culture of discipleship...to leading people into greater intentionality with their lives; the vision was clear...but the path was not.

At the end of 2017, Brandon was brought on by Sunrise Church to serve as the Staff Coach and Young Adult Pastor—alongside his responsibilities as the Founding Director of the Journeymen Discipleship Program. And it was through Sunrise that he and his wife Jillian met Jack and Vanessa Davis.

Jack, who suffers from severe diabetes was serving as the Kid's Pastor of Sunrise Church. As the shepherd for the most energetic and eager age group within the church, God gave Jack a passion to see kids meet, understand, and grow in Jesus. Brandon invited Jack to serve as an accountability mentor in The Journeymen Discipleship Program. It was there that Jack saw a glimpse of the call and vision upon Brandon's life to make much of Jesus and the power of redemption in unique and impactful ways.

Recognizing Brandon's desire to plant a multicultural, multiethnic expression of church where families and individuals could experience redemption, wholeness, and joy in Christ, Jack and his wife Vanessa approached Brandon and Jillian to inquire about what it would look like to partner with him towards that vision. Humbled and encouraged, Brandon knew an important bridge was being built as an amazing journey was preparing to be set into motion. After much prayer and several meetings, Jack and Vanessa made the resolve to join Brandon towards the vision of a church plant.

An evening etched in the stone of our story...

Brandon and Jack made the resolve to plant Redemption City Church alongside their wives at 10:02pm on April 10th, 2019. Over the next few months, Brenda and Jack I would meet with several individuals with families. Each with their own story of tragedy and the ongoing process of redemption. It was clear that the Lord was racing up a brand-new church that we marked by a strong desire to see people come out of tragedy. And then on June 9, 2019 division became reality.

Brandon and Jack made the resolve to plant Redemption City Church alongside their wives at 10:02pm on April 10th, 2019. By faith, RCC exists to glorify God by making disciples through gospel-centered worship, service, covenant family, and multiplication. We are resolved to **RISK** our comfort—> so that we might **REACH** our city—>with a message that can **RELEASE** freedom in Jesus—> in order that many would experience a **REDEEMED** life in Christ. We hope you will consider becoming a part of our church family. Our story began then...

And we hope your story with us...under God, begins now

OUR MISSION.

We Are Better Together for Christ

We believe a church's mission statement carries significant importance. It defines the overarching purpose; describing what the church does...who does it...and how it is accomplished. It also communicates to others why your specific church expression exists. Legitimate mission statements should be used as a guide for the covenant members and leaders in everyday life and situations regarding the church's purpose. It should shape congregational life with clear directives that can be understood, practiced, and modeled. Redemption City Church's Mission Statement aims to accomplish the aforementioned.

Our Mission Statement

Redemption City Church exists to glorify God by making disciples through gospel-centered worship, service, covenant family, and multiplication. We are resolved to **RISK** our comfort—> so that we might **REACH** our city—> with a message that can **RELEASE** freedom in Jesus—> in order that many would experience a **REDEEMED** life in Christ.

OUR DNA | 8 MARKS.

How We'll Prayerfully Accomplish Our Mission



What does Redemption City Church mean when we say we are “Marked by” something? Essentially, we are saying that there are particular characteristics or features in the very culture of our church that enables you to recognize that **this is us, its who we are!**

In other words, there are particular qualities, feelings, situations, systems, and institutions that we embody as a collective whole; that unifies us under a common mission and vision. We have 8 marks of our church that have been chronicled below in condensed form. When you become a covenant member of our church, you are adopting these particular qualities, feelings, situations, systems, and institutions as your own. It's personal, filled with affection...and necessary. It's also accepted with joy and glad submission. Fuller explanations of each mark are featured in our Redemption City Church DNA Sermon & Exhortation Series which can be found online.

Marked by the Gospel

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint but blessed is, he who keeps the law. Proverbs 29:18. At Redemption City Church, we want a clear vision, devotion, and reverence for the Gospel... because the Gospel is of first importance. Everything we do, everything we believe, everything we sacrifice, everything we love must be rooted in our fundamental belief of the Gospel. When we embody the Gospel, we move from death to a new life with a different set of desires, priorities, and affection is in alignment with the Creator of the universe. And out of our joy, we are compelled to walk alongside other people from death to life. Our church is founded on becoming a joyful part of God's story. [See DNA Series Part 1 for in expanded take on this mark of our church]

Marked by Grace

Grace is an expression of God's love manifested through his unmerited favor towards a man. Grace is categorically on earn a bowl. It's essentially God giving to us that which we do not deserve nor can earn—but yet it's something we so desperately want. additionally, mercy is also an expression of God's love from the opposite side of grace. Mercy is God withholding from us various realities we absolutely deserve because of our sin; but that we emphatically do not want. Mercy is an incredible gift of forgiveness and pardoning. When we embody grace and mercy, we move from a life of performing to abiding. Redemption city church is compelled to demonstrate this grace and mercy to others around us; out of our joy. [See DNA Series Part 2 for in expanded take on this mark of our church]

Marked by Generosity

Generosity is an expression of God's love manifested through his willingness to give and bless her spiritually, relationally, emotionally, financially, and for eternity... all for his glory. When we embody God's generosity towards us; we are then compelled to share all that we have and all that we are as a demonstration that we rightly understand all of what God has provided for us. Redemption City Church aims to be a people marked by a type of generosity that God can use to heal, convict and encourage people. [See DNA Series Part 3 for in expanded take on this mark of our church]

Marked by Gathering

God is the architect of the church. Therefore, He has created a specific blueprint for why the church gathers, how the church gathers, and what the church is called to do when they gather. These can be summed up in three primary reasons. To remember some things, to experience some things, and to receive some things. When we embody a culture of gathering; we move from isolation into intimate life on life community where we can be known and loved and challenged. And out of our joy, we caught others away from isolation, self-preservation, so they can relearn how to sacrifice, trust and thrive. Here at Redemption City Church, we aim to gather together with devotion to remember, experience and receive all that God has for us. [See DNA Series Part 4 for in expanded take on this mark of our church]

Marked by Going

In a generation where only 20% of professing Christians have ever shared their faith with an unbeliever, being marked by going is a fundamental desire and mission of Redemption City Church. Rather it be from a lack of gospel knowledge, apathy, or timidity about assurance of salvation, we aim to equip and mobilize our people towards confident discipleship that leads to enduring evangelistic efforts. When we embody

this type of “going” movement; we move from hearing to proclaiming and doing much more than we ever thought possible; by faith. [See DNA Series Part 5 for in expanded take on this mark of our church]

Marked by Biblical Manhood & Womanhood

We believe the God of the Bible is true and that he is the only real God and that he has created everything that exists including the institution of biblical manhood and womanhood. The effects of biblical manhood and womanhood impacts our understanding of God, the gospel, sexuality, marriage, singlehood, and or children. Here at Redemption City Church, we aim to be a people that submit to the biblical design of manhood and womanhood; with the hope that redemption of both passive and aggressive nature of sin in each gender would be broken, redeeming God’s design for biblical manhood and womanhood for both his glory and our joint sanctification and joy. [See DNA Series Part 6 & 7 for in expanded take on this mark of our church]

Marked by Unity in the Family Unit

Marriage & the Family is the most powerful institution designed by God on earth when each member seeks unity and glad agreement. The Bible speaks loudly about this reality. In fact, Paul says that families are called to be unified by being of the same mind and the same judgment. This starts with a foundational relationship as sons and daughters of God. From that foundation, unity is found in Christ, through the Church, for God’s glory, resulting in the family’s joy. So, when the family comes together in unity and goes forth in agreement; specifically, around the things of God, they can declare against a culture of sin, depravity, oppression, and marital and relational brokenness—> saying that enough is enough...and a better way as possible! Redemption is possible. [See DNA Series Part 8 for in expanded take on this mark of our church]

Marked by Covenant Family

God is a covenant-making and a covenant-keeping God. Because our aim is to walk in alignment with the character and nature of God, covenant membership has been established. To begin practically, our covenant membership speaks loudly to a low-commitment culture that we are not afraid nor ashamed to radically commit that which is supremely valuable. Namely ~ Jesus The Christ. This kind of covenant membership has been dramatically implied and clearly understood by biblical characters thousands of years ago and remains true today. The Bible implies loudly that this type of commitment and obligation to the church is both necessary and important. It’s implied through church gatherings, church leadership, church discipline, and church accountability; just to name a few. [See DNA Series Part 9 for in expanded take on this mark of our church].

DNA SERMON SERIES GUIDE.

A Journey Through What We Aimed to Be Known For & Marked By



In June 2019, Redemption City Church launched its church through its DNA Series. The prayerful aim was to establish what it's specific local context and community members would be known for and ultimately marked by. They were broken down as the following:

Part 1: Marked by The Gospel.	Part 2: Marked by Grace.	Part 3: Marked by Generosity.	Part 4: Marked by Gathering.
Part 5: Marked by Going.	Part 6: Marked by Biblical Manhood & Womanhood	Part 7: Marked by Unity in the Family Unit.	Part 8: Marked by Covenant Family & Membership

As part of our covenant membership pathway, all potential members are required to listen to the "RCC DNA" sermon series. There you'll learn about the mission, core values, and doctrinal distinctives of Redemption City Church. This will help inform you about who we are, what we believe, and why we do what we do. You will be asked to affirm that you have listened to the series in its entirety, or attended the series in person in the summer of 2019, or some combination of the two. You will also be asked specific questions about each sermon in both your assessment form and during your Covenant Membership interview process with the elders. None of this is meant to be received as a test, but as an affirmation that we have provided a firm foundation of who we are and have sufficiently armed you with the necessary information you need to make the best decision possible for yourself and or your family regarding Redemption City Church becoming your home.

DNA Sermon Series Step-By-Step Guide | Words of Encouragement

Step 1: Start from the Beginning. As tempting as it is to jump to what might interest you most, it's important that you experience the series as it was intended. With great intentionality in prayer, Pastor Brandon constructed this series in a specific order to best set up our community to grow in a cohesive manner.

Step 2: Listen to Each Sermon in its Entirety. Don't skip around and do the classic "college-cram speed through". Listen, our aim is not to take up all your time. However, we truly want to receive all that we believe God has for you through this series. Because our unique membership pathway is mostly driven intentionally from the comfort of your home and schedule and not on our campus in multiple classes, it's critically important that you exercise integrity by leaning in and doing your part well.

Step 3: Use Our Fill in The Blank Forms. While not required, we strongly encourage potential members to utilize our fill in the blank forms that were used the summer of 2019. It has been scientifically proven that the average person retains information at a higher degree when engaging with notes. This will both help you learn all that God has for you in the sermon series and arm you with the information you can bring to your interview process. It will be very helpful! These resources can be accessed on the Redemption City Church Connections Portal by searching file "0172."

Step 4: Talk About it with Your Family. If you and your family are exploring covenant membership, we strongly encourage you to explore the series as much as possible as a family unit. Make it festive. Gather everyone around your computer or TV with a bowl of popcorn. Have a family discussion or perhaps a family walk afterwards. If you are an individual exploring covenant membership on your own, consider perhaps inviting a close friend or loved one to go through this process with you. We would love to connect you with other individuals/singles going through our covenant membership process at the same time with you. In that, there's the potential for both of you to do it together and perhaps build a friendship along the way. If you would like our help towards being matched up with another potential covenant member, please don't hesitate to call our office.

Step 5: Fellowship with God. After each sermon, spend time in prayer about the sermon. What applications might the Lord be calling you to repent of, confess, or open your hands towards. What doors might He be calling you to close...or perhaps open? Invite God into the center of your world.

The Redemption City Church DNA series can be found at <http://www.visitredemptioncc.com/>

INTERACTING WITH THE SERIES.

DNA Series Assessment

Our DNA series is a foundation and integral part of both our church and covenant membership process. Below are a series of questions corresponding to each sermon of our 8 Marks. This is not a test. There's no pass or fail. This is an opportunity for the elders and pastors to confidently know that you have been armed and equipped with biblical wisdom to set you up as a thriving member of our community. Please logon to the Redemption City Church Connections Portal to answer the questions below. Search for file "0244". Please be aware that our portal will not save your information, so we recommend typing them out on a separate document/Google doc and pasting them into the questionnaire form when you are ready to send. Upon sending your assessment, you will receive a DNA series course completion code. Do not lose this code; as it is required for completion of your covenant membership process. You will need to place it on your Covenant Membership Questionnaire located at the end of this packet. Please complete this assessment within enough time to add the completion code to your questionnaire prior to your covenant meeting.

Marked by the Gospel

- What are the 5 "G's that were introduced in part one of the series that redemption city church wants to be marked by?
- In part one, marked by the Gospel, we talk about four lies and their gospel truth counterparts. Which lie most represents your spiritual struggle and why?

Marked by Grace

- Explain the difference between grace and mercy as taught in the sermon?
- How does the grace and mercy of God impact your life personally?

Marked by Generosity

- In the sermon it talked about a concept called "generosity explained". How does generosity explained affect your life personally?

Marked by Gathering

- During the sermon, we learned there are four reasons why we gather together as a church. Which of the four reasons do you struggle with the most and why?

Marked by Going

- During the sermon, pastor Brandon referred to the "risky gospel truth". Which of the two do you find more difficult to activate your calling towards? Why?

Marked by Biblical Manhood & Womanhood A (Creation and Design)

- Why are the three truths about biblical manhood and womanhood explained in this sermon so important?

Marked by Biblical Manhood & Womanhood B (Sin, Redemption, Application)

- As revealed in the sermon, all people struggle with passive and aggressive. Which do you been towards and how does that affect your walk with Jesus and others?

Marked by Unity Within the Family Unit

- Which of the five wrong primary targets of unity do you struggle with the most?
- What is one step you and or your family can take to walk out the Joshua effect?

Marked by Covenant Family and Membership

- Why is coming at membership to a local church important?

OUR VISION.

Our Aims for Today and the Future

Our vision is to be a gospel-saturated church that references the word of God above all things as our compass for life through faithful preaching, teaching, and exhortation. | **Marked by the Gospel**

Our vision is to be a financially healthy church that stewards God's resources in a way that commissions us best to thrive and be generous towards His kingdom purposes. | **Marked by Generosity**

Our vision is to create a healthy atmosphere where visitors would desire to regularly attend and regular attenders would desire to become covenant members. Covenant membership is our unwavering aim. | **Marked by Covenant**

Our vision is to teach and disciple men towards loving and gentle spiritual leadership over their families in both deep and practical/everyday life type of ways...according to the biblical design for manhood; laced in fearful trembling before the Lord. | **Marked by Biblical Manhood & Womanhood**

Our vision is to lead men towards the path of freedom from sexual sin and passivity of leadership; believing that when a man changes in these two areas...according to the biblical design for manhood, families as a whole begin to heal. | **Marked by Biblical Manhood & Womanhood**

Our vision is to encourage and uplift women to be all of what God has uniquely and graciously wired them to be as immeasurably important, fully necessary, fully dignified helpers in God's perfect design biblical womanhood... expressed through marriage, family and church. | **Marked by Biblical Manhood & Womanhood**

Our vision is to teach men and women how to endure seasons of great pain and suffering. With Jesus, redemption is possible is our trumpet sound. | **Marked by Gathering**

Our vision is to truly honor and lean in towards the older generation; challenging them to stay in the game...so as not to waste their golden years in safety and comfort. We believe your race is not finished yet! | **Marked by Gathering**

Our vision is to teach our Next Generation high school, middle school, and elementary students the path towards making wise decisions with their lives early on so they can maximize joy within their lives; avoiding the snare of sin that wrecks lives. | **Marked by Gathering**

Our vision is to teach and preach the full counsel of God from cover to cover. | **Marked by the Gospel**

Our vision is to send out young healthy pastors and leaders to express more church plants, go overseas, and do all kinds of God-centered work. | **Marked by Going**

Our vision is to one day have a teaching institution within the church where people can grow in their understanding how to handle the Bible for themselves instead of depending solely on leadership. |

Marked by Gathering

Our vision is to have a staff filled with servant-hearted godly people who each have their own story of imperfections, failures, and thorns...yet a redemptive story of what God did through their trials. This will allow us to be a church filled with leadership that can rightly love others of all ethnicities and backgrounds into repentance; resulting in lasting joy. | **Marked by the Gospel**

OUR DOCTRINE.

Our Basic & Fundamental Statement of Beliefs

Doctrine of God

We believe the God of the Bible is true and that He is the only real God. We believe He created everything that exists; including certain systems and institutions, for His glory and the joy of His people. He is forever existing, without interruption, as one nature and three unmistakable persons. Namely ~ God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; each of whom is fully God, yet they are one as God. Each unmistakable person is fully, equally, and eternally God; yet each have unique functions and roles regarding how they express their authority. Each person is worthy of equal worship, honor, affections, and praise. In addition, each person of God compliments the other in harmony towards the incredible work of creation, providence, and redemption. The entire Christian faith is bound together with the confession of God's Trinitarian nature (Matt. 28:18-20).

We believe in God the Father, the identified Creator of heaven and earth. He is infinite and incredibly perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. He hears and answers prayers. In His sovereignty, He rules over all things. He is intimately involved with the affairs of men and saves from sin and death—>those who come to Him through Jesus The Christ. He is to be respected, honored and made much of as God, the first person of the Trinity.

We believe in God the Son, (God from Himself) eternally begotten but absolutely not made. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. In history, He once and for the elect, assumed a human nature for the sake of our redemption...known as salvation (John 1:14; Heb. 1:3). He is fully God and fully man. Through Him, all things came into being that were created. This is not in conflict with God the Father being identified as the Creator of heaven and earth. God the Son suffered a terrible death, was buried for three days, and resurrected on the third day. He ascended and presently sits at the right hand of the Father until He returns for the final judgment and the consummation of the Kingdom. He is to be respected, honored and made much of as God; the second person of the Trinity. (being referred to as 2nd is not representative of worth nor does it show a lack of His importance)

We believe in God the Holy Spirit forever and always proceeding from the Father and the Son and is sent by the Father and Son to give new and redeemed life (John 15:26-27). The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment for the purposes of regenerating, redeeming, sanctifying, and ultimately emboldening all who believe in Jesus The Christ to pilgrimage towards a new heaven and earth with the Father. The Holy Spirit indwells within every true regenerate believer of Jesus. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify the Son who, in turn, came to glorify the Father. The Holy Spirit will lead the Church into a right understanding and rich application of the simplicity and authority of God's Word. He is to be respected, honored and made much of as God, the third person of the Trinity. (being referred to as 3rd is not representative of worth nor does it show a lack of His importance) John 14:16,17,26; 15:26,27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26).

The true God—>Father, Son and Spirit, is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible. As the immortal and eternal Creator, He sovereignly rules over all of His creation (Ps. 24:1).

Doctrine of Creation & Providence

We believe that God created the entire world (and the rest of the universe) from absolutely nothing and that it was originally very good; He created it to glorify Himself. (Colossians 1:16). Creation is distinct from God yet is always dependent on him. (Acts 17:25, 28). Therefore, we further believe that God categorically governs all things seen and unseen--> at all times and outside time—> in all places. (Gen. 1:1-2; Ps. 24:1). God's creative work is the overflow of their affections rightly presented within the Trinitarian fellowship.

God is active in all things. Always. He doesn't simply "let" the world exist, He **makes** the world exist; upholding all things by the word of His power and ultimate sovereignty. (Col. 1:17). Specifically, within God's providence and sovereignty, humans remain responsible (and accountable) for their actions and their actions make a difference (John 16:24). This is precisely why He sacrificed His son Jesus within the center of the gospel message.

Doctrine of Revelation

We believe that God's revelation of Himself has been given to humanity in both deeds and words. This revelation of God was demonstrated progressively by the unfolding of His character, mighty acts, and overarching purposes in history. **God has unmistakably revealed Himself to mankind in three manners:**

- Jesus The Christ (The embodied Word) Heb.1:1-2
- The Scriptures (The inspired Word) 2 Tim. 3:16
- Within Creation | Psalms. 8; Rom. 1:20.

More specifically, we believe that Jesus is the perfect representative of who God is, because we as humans relate easiest to human expression. He is the image, imprint, and reflection of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15), (Heb. 1:3), (John 5:19).

We further believe the Bible (as presently constructed with 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) is penned by appointed men but nevertheless is inspired by God alone; therefore, it is without fault in its original form. The Bible alone is comprehensively authoritative. We further believe in the sufficiency of Scripture. This means that all of what God requires for us to believe and do...all of God's primary instruction to be obeyed...and all of His promises to keep and trust are found within the Bible alone. As God's people hear, believe, and obey the Word, they are equipped as Bible-believing Christ-exalting disciples, humble servants, and witnesses to the gospel, to contend for the faith and run their race towards eternity. (Rom. 10:14-17).

Doctrine of Humanity

We believe that all humanity (both male and female) is created in the imago dei (image of God). (Gen. 1:27-30). All men and all women, bearing the image of God, are meant to represent God in His creation (1 Cor. 10:31). God prescribes both men and women to manage and govern over creation in different yet equally important ways. Both men and women enjoy equal access to God by faith in Jesus the Christ. However, because mankind sinned against God, they became subject to physical, spiritual, and eternal death. (Eternal death means total separation from God). We believe wholeheartedly that all people are sinners by choice of their corrupt will; therefore, we are rightly under God's righteous wrath and deserving of condemnation. Without salvation in Christ, we are lost without hope. With Christ, believers are called to flee from passivity, self-centeredness and self-indulgence—> and instead are challenged towards intentionality to live a biblical-based redeemed life, where engagement of the family, church, and civic life is a joyful priority.

Finally, Adam and Eve were designed to complement each other in the covenant of marriage that establishes the only God-ordained pattern of sexual relations for men and women. In God's wise purposes, men and women are not simply interchangeable, but rather are distinct and complement each other in beautiful and right ways.

Recovering Complementarianism.

God designed man and woman with equal dignity and worth. This is best demonstrated in how we resemble, represent, relate, and our responsible to God. Men and women were created to demonstrate the picture of the trinity. However, in God's good created order, men and women are to have different yet complementary roles and responsibilities in the home and church. As it relates to the church, men and women are both expected to lead; however, the office of elder/pastor is reserved for qualified men (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1). For more information on our distinctive regarding complementarianism, please contact us directly.

Doctrine of Baptism & Communion

We believe the New Testament prescribes baptism after conversion by immersion into water. Baptism by immersion symbolizes the legitimacy of the believer's union to Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:1-14). Baptism is reserved for those who have repented and placed their complete faith in Christ.

When the believer is immersed into water:

- It represents death to the old life and nature of unbelief and willful sinning.

When the believer is raised out of the water:

- It represents birth into a new life and a new nature of progressive sanctification.

Finally, we believe that baptism by immersion should be practiced and done in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe that communion was initiated and instituted by Jesus the Christ. It is meant to represent the ongoing covenant that glorifies and places weight on the remembrance of the atoning death and resurrection Jesus experienced for our salvation and redemption. We believe communion is reserved for those who have a genuine profession of faith and have shown discernible fruit of believing in Jesus.

We believe both of these ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord.

Acts 2:41, 8:12, 10:47-48, 16:14-15; Colossians 2:11-12; Romans 6:1-11; Galatians 3:2,5, 24-29 I Cor. 11:23-30. Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:17-20.

OUR LEADERSHIP.

Our Elders, Pastors, And Wise Counsel Of The Church

Elders & Pastors

Those who serve in pastoral and elder positions are appointed men by God, confirmed by the church leadership, and appointed to the task of leadership. They are shepherds and overseers of a local church that are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping, praying, and caring for the corporate church body and its individual members; meeting the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.



Name: Brandon K. Rachal

Position: Lead Pastor of Preaching & Vision | Elder of Redemption City Church

Years in Pastoral Ministry: 14 years

Affiliation/License:

Maintains affiliation/license as a pastor through Grace International Network of Churches for 10+ years.

Certifications/Training Background:

Life Coaching & Exercise & Nutrition Coaching

Advanced Degree/Coursework:

Masters of Secondary Education (finished)

Master of Theology and Biblical Studies (in progress)

Undergraduate Degree/Coursework:

Bachelor of Social Science

Notable Achievements:

- Executive Pastoring
- Pastoral Counseling & Life Coaching
- Student Ministry Pastor
- Young Adults Pastor
- Founded and Director of Camp Jericho | A faith-based camp for kids; between the ages of 7 and 17 in Southlake Tahoe, California.
- Founder of ESNP Elite | A strength, exercise and nutrition program for athletes who want to achieve their personal best...both on and off the playing field.
- Founder of Making Much of Christ Ministries Network | An organization that produces gospel-centered resources across the US. Recently planting Redemption City Church.

Lifetime Verse: Isaiah 58:10-11

Married: Married to Wife Jillian for 13 years

Kids: Ayden & Aubrey.

Ideal Pastime: Pre-Injury: Working out at the gym and playing basketball. **Post Injury:** Reading or sitting at a park.

Known Annoying Habit: Biting his nails...there's grace for him though :)

The Point Man | What He Does At RCC?

- Establishes/Leads Vision of the church.
- Primary Sunday Preacher/Teacher
- Oversees Website, Media, & Written Communication
- Pastoral Care/Counseling of Staff & Covenant Members
- Men's Discipleship
- Pastor & Staff Recruiter

A full description of his responsibilities and salary can be found on the Connections Portal. Search file "0312".



Elders & Pastors

Those who serve in pastoral and elder positions are appointed men by God, confirmed by the church leadership, and appointed to the task of leadership. They are shepherds and overseers of a local church that are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping, praying, and caring for the corporate church body and its individual members; meeting the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.



Name: Jack Davis

Position: Connections Pastor & Elder of Redemption City Church

Years in Pastoral Ministry: 3 years

Affiliation/License:

N/A

Certifications/Training Background:

Certificate of Transformational Coaching

Advanced Degree/Coursework:

Masters of the Arts in Biblical

Theological Studies: Theological Track

Undergraduate Degree/Coursework:

Bachelor's of the Arts in

Biblical and Theological Studies

Notable Achievements:

- **Make Young Disciples Curriculum:** A 10-year kids ministry curriculum that guides children into a heart and head understanding of the Bible as one big story that show how Jesus came to save us and to bring us into a relationship with God.
- **Poet Tree Group:** A poetry club aimed at writing original poetry to explore our souls together and find how to best grow closer to God.

Lifetime Verse: Acts 6:2-6

Married: Married to Wife Vanessa for 2 years

Kids: Not yet.

Ideal Pastime: Reading with a hot cup of coffee.

Known Annoying Habit: He tends to get crumbs in his beard while eating.

The Point Man | What He Does At RCC?

- Connects People to the Vision of the church.
- Oversees Ministry Serve Opportunities (volunteers & staff)
- Oversees evangelistic (outreach) efforts
- Oversees Sunday set up/teardown logistics
- Armor Bearer/ Assists Lead Pastor

A full description of his responsibilities and salary can be found on the Connections Portal. Search file "0312".

Board of Wise Council

Those who serve on the board wise counsel are Individuals who have been sufficiently challenged and victorious at living in getting a holy life in a reproducible manner without gross moral failure. Their primary duty is to provide loving and gentle advice and accountability.



NAME: DR. ALFRED E. SMITH SR.

Years Walking with The Lord: 40 years

Primary Lifetime Vocation: Senior Pastor

Current Vocation: Leadership Coach & Trainer

Years in Pastoral Ministry: 32 Years

OUR CHURCH BYLAWS.

Engaging with Our Bylaws

The contents Within the official redemption city church bylaws represent our formal declaration; purposed with aiding the church towards staying focused on its identified mission, values, and beliefs— >assisting in the management of the church, and also to protect the church. These bylaws are open and free to inquiring covenant members. If God is leading you to pursue Covenant Membership at our church, please make sure you prayerfully read these bylaws before moving forward further. Our bylaws are broken into 14 sections across 9 pages of information. We hope our bylaws are resourceful for you and your family.

How to Explore Our Church Bylaws

Step One: Please access the redemption city church connections portal

Step Two: access our church bylaws by searching file “1234”

Step Three: Slowly and carefully read through our church bylaws. Please take notes about any questions you might have and would like to bring up during the covenant membership interview process with the elders.

COVENANT MEMBERSHIP.

Active Participation and Mutual Commitment Within A Sacred Relationship
Between God and A Specific People



Redemption City Church exists to glorify God by making disciples through gospel-centered worship, service, covenant family, and multiplication. We are resolved to **RISK** our comfort—> so that we might **REACH** our city—> with a message that can **RELEASE** freedom in Jesus—> in order that many would experience a **REDEEMED** life in Christ. We believe our covenant membership best helps us to accomplish that aim. Our covenant membership is birthed out of Scripture and prayed over by the elders and wise counsel of our church. We additionally sought glad approval on our membership pathway from a variety of identifiable families that have a membership legacy of 20+ years with a single local church. Our hope is that every covenant member redemption city church would experience the fullness of joy which is found in the presence of the Lord and His people. Everything within our covenant membership is purposed with clarifying the biblical obligations and expectations for both the elders of Redemption City Church and its individual members of Redemption City Church body.

A Conversation from Our Lead Pastor About Covenant Membership to Inquiring Individuals and Families

What Is the Church?

Many people today understand the church as brick-and-mortar...walls, aesthetics, and programming. However, this is not biblical. “Church”; translated from the Greek Word “ecclesia” is defined as “an assembly” or “called-out ones.” The root meaning of church is not that of a building, but of people. Namely ~ God’s people. Romans 16:5 says, “Greet the church that is in their house.” Paul refers to the church in their house—not a church building, but a body of believers.

First, let’s talk about the universal church. It consists of everyone, everywhere, who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Think deeply about this passage:

“12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. - 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.

The local church is better described in Galatians 1:1–2: “1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—2 and all the brothers who are with me—> To the churches of Galatia:” Here we see that in Galatia there were churches. In other words, they had a localized ministry; in other words, they were local churches.

The purpose of the church is to display of the glory of God because all things exist for His glory. True Bible-believing Christ-exalting Christians joyfully acknowledge that they are a part of something significantly bigger than themselves. Namely ~ The redemption story of all things... authored by the creator of all things. In God’s grace and mercy, we have been generously invited into God’s redemptive purposes in the world; for His glory. But not Only redemption—> but also reconciliation. God has been calling for his people to be reconciled from all sin and brokenness.

We learned in Genesis 3, that creation has been suffering from the curse of sin for a long time now. We see the first evidence of the protoevangelium “first gospel“ account in Genesis 3:15– in which God makes the announcement that he has a plan To make the world right again. The gospel explained and activated in the New Testament carries with it the promise of ultimate renewal, restoration, reconciliation, and of course redemption. This is why Christ-followers across human history eagerly anticipate the return of Jesus the Christ. Christ’s return represents the end of both passive and aggressive sin nature’s that have wreaked havoc across humanity.

OK, now let’s put all this together!

The universal church (representing believers everywhere) is the vehicle by which God has chosen to establish and accomplish his overarching purposes... moving us out of our broken story into his perfect story. (2 Cor. 5:17–20). Because this is true, the glad opportunity (not meagerly obligation) to courageously join a local church expression is about significantly more than simple Sunday attendance and big check writings. While both those attributes are good, right, and true; they are grossly incomplete.

Instead, joining a local church expression/body is in active faith-laced call and challenge to be submitted to the redemptive work of our sovereign God; aiming our arrows of Christian effort to push back the darkness of a broken and hurting world. And of course, this is done only through the power of the Holy Spirit... because of Jesus... for the glory of the father.

The local church is the gathering of God's chosen people; the redeemed ones. (Eph. 2:19), 1 Corinthians 12 is a pivotal passage of scripture that explains at greater length about many members within the same body. Just as the human body is interconnected, utterly unable to work apart from itself...utterly dependent on it's various members working in one accord; so it goes for the local church. The body of Christ requires sacrificial and fruitful service by its individual members.

In conclusion, first Corinthians 12:21 says this, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you'" (1 Cor. 12:21). Likewise, a member of the church cannot say to another member that they have no need for the other. So despite culture's best attempt to reform our thinking towards self sufficiency and unhealthy portions individuality, bible says we need each other. Contrary to the beliefs of our culture, we need each other. This is not a lie, this is true.

Covenant membership at redemption city church is a glad participation opportunity for individuals and families to live out the commands and purposes of God in the safest way possible; namely the institution of the local church. This means we are interconnected to Christ and sacrificially there for one another.

What Is a Covenant?

God is a covenant-making and a covenant-keeping God. Because our aim is to walk in alignment with the character and nature of God, this covenant has been established. To begin practically, our membership covenant speaks loudly to a low-commitment culture that we are not afraid nor ashamed to radically commit that which is supremely valuable. Namely ~ Jesus The Christ. Since He is not ashamed to call us his brothers (Heb. 2:11), we therefore are not ashamed to be known as his people (Rom. 1:16).

Second, God says that the elders of the church will give an account to Jesus for those members of the body entrusted to them (Heb. 13:17). As one of the elders of the church, I want to do all that I can in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to know whom we as Elders are to shepherd...and for whom we will give an account for.

Finally, covenant membership is a way to remember that the church is not a building or an event, but a people (Col. 1:18). A beautiful people By covenanting together, the Covenant Members of redemption city church intentionally and relationally commit themselves to both God and one another.

As you continue to read the Bible, you will notice that the term "Covenant" frequently comes up; especially when you study it. Yet when we hear of "Membership" (that is the word within covenant membership that people stumble on) in the 21st century American culture, it often brings to mind images of a commitment at the level of fitness gym, Golf organization, or a Rotary Club. This is in sharp contrast to the bible.

Covenants dominate scripture and carry significantly more weight than we realize. In the Bible, “membership” is not the low-commitment like the examples provided; but a covenant relationship built on the example of God himself. When scripture mentions covenants, it refers to a strong and ceremonial agreement between two given parties; and it is always for The glory of God and sets us up for our joy.

Ok...Lean in.

(1) Covenants bring two individuals into one.

In Scripture, when two parties make a covenant, they are joining together and identifying with each other in specific ways that alter the relationship towards a new standard that was not previously there.

Consider these passages:

- They may exchange coats (1 Sa 18:3–4)
- Having a commemorative meal (Ex 24:11),
- Erecting a long-lasting memorial to their promise (Gn 31:46).

At every covenant’s core, there is a change in a relationship. Do you see? LITERALLY look up the passages...Go see!

(2) Covenants involve genuine promises.

When people join together under a covenant; it’s not a random connection. There’s intentionality involved. Also, Covenants usually involve some sort of practical application that can be measured and discerned by all parties involved. (Example: marriage covenant. Both husband and wife can discern if they are being faithful to their vows; irrespective of the position and distinguishing authority within the relationship). Biblically speaking, sometimes it meant to not harm one another (Gn 31:50)....sometimes it meant protecting one another (1 Sa 20)...and sometimes it meant agreeing not to simply destroy a people group that was weaker than yourself (Jos 9:15). Do you see? LITERALLY look up the passages...Go see! Do your part.

(3) Covenants are spiritually Fueled.

When Jacob and Laban agree to keep the peace, they don’t just say, “I’ll do this, you’ll do that. OK?” That’s not what we see in scripture. But rather we see them call upon God to be a witness to the covenant event. (Genesis 31:50). Now take a moment and flip over to first Samuel 20:17 and see the same thing between David and Jonathan! Can you see now? Covenants are taken seriously... i’m early because two people are joining together with so much more than words— they are joining together as they TRUST The creator of the universe; Namely Yahweh (God) to hold them accountable. Are you still tracking? This means. . .

(4) Covenants are not easily broken.

In the Old Testament, people would often slaughter animals to demonstrate what should happen to the one who breaks the covenant. Elsewhere in scripture, we see that Jonathan calls on God to kill him if he does not alert David of danger (1 Sa 20:13). While that may seem dramatic to our culture today, the symbolism is helpful and appropriate. But we need to take away from the old testament is that a covenant is a serious thing. Unlike most covenant membership guides, we have chosen intentionally to

write this from my pastoral heart. Less academic and prayerfully more readable, engaging, and convicting.

Therefore, when the Bible speaks about covenants it is never merely a transaction of goods, services, or relationships. Also much more. The main kind of covenants we need to understand:

(5) Covenants between man and man.

Examples:

- Abraham and Abimelech (Gn 21:22–34)
- Jacob and Laban (Gn 31)
- David and Jonathan (1 Sa 18:1–5; 20),
- Marriage (Gn 2:22–24; Mal 2:14).
- Covenants between God and man.

These are the REALLY important ones—the ones that shape the story of the Bible. Some of God’s covenants are completely unconditional: they’re not sustained by human performance. When God makes His covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15, He doesn’t require anything from Abraham. His covenant with David was unconditional as well (1 Chr 17).

So, While God’s covenant with the universal church is utterly unconditional (meaning he will accomplish his purpose irrespective of our abilities or shortcomings) the local church covenant represents A special covenant between man and man... but we do that under God; Him being a witness. And that is the weightiness. Covenant membership means that if at any time one of the parties of this church continues in a state of unfaithfulness to its provisions, the other is released from certain but not all obligations.

Within redemption city church’s covenant membership there are a variety of practices that would be considered by even the most lenient...yet genuine biblical worldview as “normal.” For example, we believe all Christians within any context, in or outside the local church, are required to gladly submit to Scripture, pursue holiness, be a good steward resources, etc. We do not believe these are unique to our church. So if any covenant member felt as though the covenant family of this church was not holding bass to the requirements of our covenant, it is the responsibility of the discerning individual covenant member to lovingly, gently, and humbly express those concerns to the elders of our church. If our are unwilling to change and pursue covenant faithfulness, then the specified member is freed from his or her membership obligations and encouraged to seek membership elsewhere—>given the church’s disobedience.[keep in mind, there are other circumstances that may provide sufficient and appropriate grounds for transfer of membership elsewhere]. Finally, covenant membership at redemption city church is for the corporate church body (The elders and covenant members) as an acknowledgment and deeply felt and honored agreement to enter into the specified duties for the glory of God and the joy of his people.

RCC'S Covenant of Glad Obligations & Affirmations.

Role of Elders and Covenant Members

Based upon the pattern of scripture, Elders are called and appointed men by God, confirmed by the church leadership, and appointed to the task of leadership. They are shepherds and overseers of a local church that are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping, praying, and caring for the corporate church body and its individual members; meeting the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Elders oversee the affairs of the church (1 Pet. 5:2). However, cabinet members of redemption city church in no way hold a status that is lacking in value, worth, or dignity. In other words, come to members hold no status that is inferior to the elders regarding standing before Christ. Because of the equal value of believers spoken about in Galatians 3:28, each cabinet member plays a pivotal in unreplaceable role in the mission of the church. The cabinet members do not have the responsibility of primary governance of the church, they still contribute in massive ways to the life and health of the church. Because every member has experienced the grace of a life reconciled and redeemed by the gospel, each have the opportunity to gladly reflect the character of price and the rejection of things that are not like him. Additionally, as followers of Jesus, each has been given gifts by the Holy Spirit with the responsibility to pursue active ministry for the accomplishment of the mission of the church in the care of its members. This takes place through a multitude of ministry roles and service opportunities.

Elders and deacons are simply two of a multitude of ways that this reality plays out... in these two are specifically designed for men. Not from May 21 century cultural perspective of an increased sense of value or worth, but from a biblical perspective of loving and gentle protection in accordance with God. The elders of redemption C. Church have not created these rules and distinctions; we have simply chosen to go out we submit to them; trusting that God's ways are higher than our ways, and his thoughts are not like our thoughts. Therefore, this document is not purposed with adding additional obligations to any believer seeking covenant membership at our church, but rather to further clarify and explain what the Scriptures have always taught up about regarding obedience and the fruit and healing it produces. By affirming our covenant membership, you are positioning yourself and/or your family to have access to that fruit and healing within your life, for the glory of God, and of course, your joy. Our covenant of glad obligations and affirmations are as follows:

The Elder's Covenant to You:

We covenant to...

1. intentionally care for their own relationships with God as their first priority; in order that they can love, serve, and lead the church out of the overflow of Christ in them (John 15).
2. guide and gently care for their own families, understanding that their care for the church is to first be lived out in their own homes (1 Tim. 3:4–5; Titus 1:6).
3. appoint elders and deacons that are tested and approved according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Pet. 5:1–4).
4. love, shepherd, teach, lead, serve, help, sacrifice, equip, protect, and care for the Covenant Members of redemption city Church as under-shepherds of the Chief Shepherd, Jesus The Christ. They will seek to do so in the same gracious manner in which Jesus shepherds all of us (1 Pet. 5:1–5).
5. 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 Pet. 5:1–4).
6. care for and submit to one another (1 Tim. 4:14; Titus 1:5). Moreover, each individual Elder covenants to act in unity even when their own opinion is of the minority opinion on a given decision.... So long as it does not violate the clear teaching of Scripture (Prov. 11:14).
7. proclaim Jesus, to share his gospel, and to teach the full counsel of the Word of God (Acts 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:3–11).
8. equip the members of the church for the work of ministry; helping members understand and joyfully fulfill all the commitments and pursuits of covenant membership at redemption city church (Eph. 4:11–16).
9. be on guard to protect The flock entrusted to their care from false teachers and teachings that are contrary to the true gospel of Jesus The Christ (Matt. 7:15–20; Gal. 1:8–9).
10. exercise church discipline when necessary; always seeking to do so from a heart of love and gentleness. This is to be done for the glory of God, the health of the church, and the fundamental goal of the individual under discipline gaining the opportunity to learn, experience restoration, and ultimately redemption.(Matt. 18:15–20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1; Heb. 12:3–17).
11. pray for the members of the church regularly, particularly when they are sick (James 5:14).
12. set an example by gladly joining covenant members in for filling the obligations of church membership stated and the next segment.(Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7–8; 1 Pet. 5:3).
13. hold to and contend for the mission, vision, 8 Marks, and essential doctrines of denton city church; as they accord with Scripture (1 Tim. 4:16).

Your Covenant to the Elder's and Corporate Body:

I covenant to...

1. submit to the Authority of scripture on all issues of life and belief (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:14–17; 2 Pet. 1:19–21).
2. pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular practice of the spiritual disciplines found in Scripture: Bible study, prayer, fellowship, silence, meditation, rest, fasting, etc. (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 9:24–27; Eph. 5:1–21; 1 Thess. 5:12–22).
3. faithfully participate in the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper; following after Jesus as the example (Matt. 28:18–20; 1 Cor. 11:17–34). affirming that; In glad obedience to Scripture, I have been baptized as a public declaration of identification with Jesus, his death and resurrection, and as a sign of membership of the covenant community (Col. 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21).
4. submit to the pastors/elders and other appointed leaders of Simpson city church out of reverence to, and in recognition of, the loving authority of Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, and to diligently strive for unity and peace within the body (Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:5).
5. regularly participate in the life and health of redemption city church by attending weekly services, engaging in biblical community, and serving those inside and outside of this church (Acts 2:42–47; Heb. 10:23–25; Titus 3:14).
6. gladly steward The finances God has given me through regular giving towards the expenses of the church, the aid of church members experiencing financial hardship, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel (2 Cor. 8–9; Gal. 2:10; 3 John 5–8).
7. glad steward my time, talents, and spiritual gifts for the betterment of the church on a regular basis. (2 Cor. 8–9; Gal. 2:10; 3 John 5–8).
8. refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Rom. 14:14–23).
9. take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Cor. 8:1–13).
10. always do the following when I sin:
 - a. confess my sin to God and to fellow believers.
 - b. repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6–10).
11. walk together in brotherly love, exercising affectionate care and watchfulness over one another, faithfully admonishing and entreating one another as circumstances may require (Rom. 12:9–16; Heb. 10:24).
12. pay careful attention to the dozens of other “one-another” commands given in Scripture, in order to joyfully seek the building up of the body of Christ, and my own sanctification (John 3:34; Rom. 12:10, 16; 14:13, 19; 15:7, 14; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:32; 5:21; Col. 3:9; 1 Thess. 4:18; James 5:16).
13. regularly pray for redemption city church (1 Thes. 5:17, 25), its leaders (1 Tim. 2:1–2), its Covenant Members, and for the advancement of the gospel through its ministries (Col. 4:3; 2 Thes. 3:1).

14. take seriously, and to live out an intentional and active commitment to the mission, values, and beliefs of Sound City Bible Church (Eph. 4:1; Col. 1:10; 1 Th. 2:12; Phil. 2:13; Heb. 13:20–21).
15. communicate to the elders or any other Covenant Member regarding any offense that I feel may have been committed against me only after I have first prayerfully considered the situation and I am confident that I am seeking an outcome focused on understanding, forgiveness, reconciliation, and gentle rebuke and correction where necessary (Eph. 4:29–32; Gal. 6:1), as fits the circumstances of the situation and in keeping with Matt. 18:15–20.
16. prayerfully and carefully reconsider my commitment to redemption city church and the Covenant Member affirmations listed here on an annual basis in order to intentionally reassess my ongoing alignment with the church’s mission, values, and beliefs. If at any time I feel I can no longer adhere to these covenant commitments and live them out joyfully, I will notify the elders of Redemption City C
- 17.
18. church and seek to work hard on reconciliation through my questions or concerns peaceably, in pursuit of the unity of Spirit and the bond of peace (Eph. 4:1–6; Rom. 12:18). However, If at some point I must move on from this church, (Example: illness or major career change that alters the region I am living) I will inform the leaders of redemption city church for their blessings, and will strive to allow them to lovingly ensure I find another church to unite with as soon as possible; allowing them to offer loving protection as they assist me in the pursuit of another church that can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the biblical principles of God’s Word (Heb. 10:24–25).

THE COVENANT MEMBERSHIP PRAYER.

Our Ceremonial Prayer You Will Be Invited to Pray During Our Membership Celebrations

Abba Father,

You are the creator of all things, across all spans of time, and this includes Your church. May You always stir up my affections to serve You and Your church from a glad willingness. Thank You for all the great things You've done in and through Your church for thousands of years. Now I pray that you would use me to build upon that legacy for all the days of my life. Thank You for Your provision with people who have a passion for keeping Your name at the center of our church. Thank You for providing multiple places for us to gather in Aloha, Beaverton, and the Hillsboro area. Thank you for raising up strong leaders who are resolved to risk their comfort to accomplish Your purposes. Thank You for how You have uniquely and lovingly worked in and through my life so that I could join this community in beautifully expressed ways. I also thank You for the specific ways You have worked in the lives of others; for in the context of community we are all positioned to love one another serve one another and learn from one another. Thank You for Your grace and mercy as You, "pardon all my iniquities and heal all my diseases...redeeming my life from the pit; and crowning me with loving kindness and compassion.

I Pray for our church's ongoing effort to involve everyone in life on life, intentional relationships; all of it rooted in grace and love toward each other. I pray that I would be diligent "to pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another by dealing biblically with conflict and refusing to gossip. I pray that I do not let any unwholesome talk come out of my mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs. I pray for members struggling with accountability and being known...that they would take the risk of coming to the light. Therefore, help me to warmly welcome everyone always. Loving fiercely while holding fast to truth.

I pray for my specific area of ministry involvement and for the continued development of my sacrificial servant heart. I pray that I would not look only to my own interest, but also to the interest of others. I pray that we would look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others. I want an attitude like Christ. I pray that I would not give up meeting together for that is where I have the opportunity to share my story with the passion of exulting your name Lord. Place within me a fire to share Your goodness, presence, renewal, redemption, and strength.

Help me to trust my life to the elders and leaders of this church; as they also submit gladly to You, in the shaping of my gifts and talents and how they can best be expressed here. I pray upon discovering those gifts and talents that You have crafted within me, but I would serve You and Your church with genuine gladness. As we continue to grow in the needs of the church, help me to do my part with gladness. My commitment ultimately to this church is for Your name alone. May You remind me of that daily.

It's for Your beautiful name I pray, Amen.

QUESTIONNAIRE & SHARING YOUR STORY •

Our Aim to Know You A Little More Than We Did Before

(1) Covenant Member Questionnaire

The questionnaire is meant to be filled out by each person seeking Covenant Membership; so even if you're married, husband and wife each need to complete their own questionnaire. The purpose of these questionnaires is to equip the elders and pastors of our church with pertinent information better connect each potential member with our family. Children ages 13 and up who are ready to make their own personal covenant with both the Lord and Redemption City Church are encouraged to also fill out their own individual intake form. Please access the questionnaire on our Connections Portal under file "3434".

The questionnaire must be submitted by Wednesday at 5pm of the week of your covenant interview.

(2) Your Decision in Christ Story

In your Covenant Membership interview, you will be asked to read your Decision in Christ story in a 5 to 7-minute segment with the elders and a few covenant members. Please do not forget to bring your written story as it is an integral part of our membership process. Proceed with the following steps:

Step 1: Log onto the Redemption City Church Connections Portal located on the main page of our website.

Step 2: Click on the "Sharing Your Decision in Christ" video for a guide of what to expect.

Step 3: Finally, search file "0000" for a brief yet helpful guide for writing something you can be proud of.

COVENANT MEMBERSHIP INTERVIEW.

Building a Relationship with You as You Take Your Seat Among Our Family



OK, so words matter here at redemption city church. And while we wish there was a better term than “interview” (acknowledging how nerve-racking that can sound) until we find a better word, this is what we are using. While this meeting with our elders is certainly intended...in part...to review your questionnaire answers, make sure we all believe the same essentials of the faith, and to ensure we all want to engage in the same mission together—know that this interview is also about building a beautiful relationship as much as anything else. Both the DNA series assessment and the covenant membership questionnaire must be submitted prior to the interview. We will then ask you a few questions about your faith and journey with the Lord based on your “Sharing Your Story” project. Expect the interview to run 2 hours long. (by Wednesday at 5pm of the week of your interview)

The following are three potential outcomes from the member interview:

- The covenant member candidate(s) signs the membership covenant and is affirmed as a Covenant Member of Redemption City Church at the conclusion of the membership interview. This is our hope! We would then schedule your membership celebration on a specific Sunday before the congregation.
- The member candidate(s) is encouraged to pause their pursuit of membership for a short time. This could be in order to make time for further reflection on some matter related to membership, a personal or spiritual matter that has come up during the course of the interview that needs attention first.
- The member candidate(s) and the elders prayerfully discern that moving forward with membership at redemption City would not be wise or recommended.

*As mentioned previously, married couples are encouraged to schedule their interview together.

COVENANT MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION.

Building a Relationship with You as You Take Your Seat Among Our Family



T

This is the most exciting part!

Several times throughout the year we'll take time during a Sunday service to celebrate God's calling of new Covenant Members into the Redemption city Church family. It's your opportunity to share your affirmations to both God and with your covenant family, it's the elders opportunity to bless and pray over you corporately, and it's the churches opportunity to make a whole bunch of noise to display our affections for you! Make sure to bring your camera, friends and family, and anything else to make the day special! After service, you'll break bread over lunch with the elders and their families to conclude the celebration! Membership celebrations occur on Sundays during our worship services.

*each year we ask each Covenant Member to prayerfully consider anew the mission, values, doctrine, and elder/member commitments of Redemption City Church. The annual recommitment happens each August, with further details and instructions being communicated as that time approaches. This simple but important annual step helps us stay laser focused on our mission — to glorify God by making disciples through gospel-centered worship, service, covenant family, and multiplication.