

The Covenant

...of Believers at Walnut Hill Bible Church

*Just as each of us has one body with many members,
and these members do not all have the same function,
so in Christ we who are many form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others.*

Romans 12:4-5

Introduction

From the days of the apostles, being a Christian has had to do with 1) affirming Christian teachings by faith and 2) living the Christian life by faith. As an expression of the body of Christ, we at Walnut Hill believe certain things and aspire to live a certain way. This is why Walnut Hill has both a statement of faith and a church covenant. We identify ourselves by our beliefs and by our way of life. All prospective members are expected to be in full agreement with the beliefs and commitments of both documents.

Founded in 1847, our church's current constitution dates back to 1929. There have been numerous revisions to better align the constitution with a growing Church; however, two articles of the constitution are intentionally unchangeable—the statement of faith and church covenant. Although the language might have been worded different today, it's amazing how truthful and relevant both documents remain in current times.

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Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and accepting the Bible as the rule and guide of faith and practice, and recognizing the privilege of uniting ourselves in Christian fellowship for worship and service, and having been baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and invoking His blessing, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one in the Body of Christ.

We engage therefore by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to seek the growth of this Church in Scriptural knowledge and holiness; to promote its prosperity and Spiritual life; to sustain its worship, ordinances, disciplines, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly by tithes and offerings to the support of the ministry, the expenses, and the extension of the Church, and spread of the Gospel throughout the nations of the world.

We also engage to maintain family and private Bible reading and prayer; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world, separated from the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ in the world.

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We further engage to watch over one another with brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy and feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the Savior 's admonition to secure it without delay.

Humbly confessing our sins, we pray for strength and grace to keep this covenant with one another in letter and spirit unto the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 12:12

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.