



THE UPPER ROOM
FELLOWSHIP

CHURCH COVENANT

Change Log

DATE OF AMEND	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BY	DATE OF APPROVAL
03/09/2023	Joe Sutton	Initial		
13/09/2023	Joe Sutton	Modify Pastor to Elder.	Ray Kelly	13/09/2023

1. Document Purpose

Throughout all history, God has always called His people to live in community, both with Him and with others who know Him. From God's relationship with ancient Israel, through to His relationship with the Church today, God is a relating God, and He calls His people to relate to Him and to one another.

We believe that membership of a local church fellowship today remains an important part of God's plan and intention for His people today. Namely, those who are committed to Jesus Christ, having received His free gift of salvation by believing in His atoning death and resurrection.

This covenant document is intended to provide a description of what healthy, Biblical community life in The Upper Room Fellowship looks like. It outlines how we, as members, agree that we will relate to one another.

2. Expectations of Elders

The Bible holds Elder in the church to a high standard, declaring that teachers of the Bible will incur a stricter judgement. The core texts for Biblical guidance on this are 1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Timothy 3-4 and Ephesians 4:11-16. In view of these texts and others, pastors and elders commit to the following expectations:

- 2.1 I will conduct my ministry voluntarily and willingly. I will never serve for money, and money will never be a motivating factor for me.
- 2.2 I will exercise personal discipline. My conduct and way of life will be above reproach and my aim is to live in a way that is worthy of emulation, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1.
- 2.3 My first ministry is to my own household. I will not permit ministry within the body of Christ to take precedence over ministry to my family.
- 2.4 I will care for the members of the church and lead with grace, truth, love and humility, seeking to equip them and build them up in spiritual maturity.
- 2.5 I will teach all of God's word, having applied it first to myself. If a member raises any questions afterwards, I will receive it in good faith and see it as an opportunity for mutual spiritual growth. If I was wrong, I will publicly correct my error.
- 2.6 I will seek God's guidance for The Upper Room Fellowship in order to steward resources entrusted to the church in a way that brings God glory.
- 2.7 I will guard The Upper Room Fellowship against false teaching and every wind of doctrine that blows through the Church.
- 2.8 I will exercise discipline within The Upper Room Fellowship in a way that is gracious and loving, protecting the health of the church as a whole.

¹ It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, *it is* a fine work he desires *to do*. ² An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, skillful in teaching, ³ not overindulging in wine, not a bully, but gentle, not contentious, free from the love of money. ⁴ *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), ⁶ *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into condemnation incurred by the devil. ⁷ And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into disgrace and the snare of the devil.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NASB 2020)

3. Expectations of Members

As a member of The Upper Room Fellowship, I make a willing commitment to the other members. These commitments apply to all members of the church irrespective of role.

- 3.1 I will bring encouragement to my brothers and sisters at The Upper Room Fellowship through my committed, regular attendance at our Sunday gatherings and other church activities.
- 3.2 I will seek to grow spiritually through both church activities and regular personal devotional times. I will pursue righteousness, aiming to say “no” to temptation and “yes” to God.
- 3.3 I will look for opportunities to be active in the fellowship, using my gifts and talents to bless others. As Christ came not to be served but to serve, so I will serve others wherever I can.
- 3.4 I will freely and cheerfully support the ministry financially, according to the resources God has given me. My giving carries no expectations.
- 3.5 I will seek unity within the fellowship, bearing with my brothers and sisters in love and seeking to maintain the unity of the Spirit. I will consider others as more important than me, and I will not put my own interests ahead of others.
- 3.6 I will pray regularly for the other members of the fellowship, both corporately and privately.
- 3.7 I will accept admonishment from my brothers and sisters, trusting that it is done in good faith for my growth and maturity in Christ.
- 3.8 When taught the Bible, I will receive it eagerly and with readiness of mind, verifying what I hear in the Scripture. If I am concerned or disagree, I will prayerfully bring the matter to the teacher with my Bible open.

⁴ For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body's parts do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another. ⁶ However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to use them properly*: if prophecy, in proportion to *one's* faith; ⁷ if service, in the *act of serving*; or the one who teaches, in the *act of teaching*; ⁸ or the one who exhorts, in the *work of exhortation*; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. ⁹ Love *must be* free of hypocrisy. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor, ¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, ¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Romans 12:4–13 (NASB 2020)