


HARVEST  CHURCH

OF

southern illinois

# COVENANT

# MEMBERSHIP

ADORING JESUS. ADVANCING BELIEVERS. ASSISTING THE COMMUNITY.





# WELCOME



**Welcome to the Harvest Church of Southern Illinois Covenant Membership Meeting!**

**We are excited for you to discover and consider what it means to be a covenant member at Harvest through the signing of the membership covenant. This meeting seeks to assist you in understanding what it means to become a covenant member through discussing the aspects of our covenant and answering any questions you may have throughout our time together.**

**As you consider making this next step commitment know that there is no obligation to join. However, this Covenant Membership Meeting is required for membership.**

**The goal of this meeting is that you be informed in what it means to become a member here at Harvest and have the ability to consider making this commitment with us. Thanks again for your interest in what it means to join Harvest in covenant membership! We pray that through this covenant your journey with Jesus might be strengthened!**

**In Christ,**

**The Harvest Church Elders**



**Tony Foeller - Vision & Teaching Pastor**

**Nick Martin - Connections Pastor**

**Lyn Crabtree - Servant Teams Ministry**

**Dr. John Casper - Life Groups Ministry**

**Gregg Aldridge - Building & Grounds Ministry**

**Jerry Hase - Children & Students Ministries**

**David Hogue - Ministries of Mercy**

**David Parks - Covenant Membership Ministries**

# SECTION ONE



Harvest Church of Southern Illinois is to be led by a plurality of elders who guard the beliefs, mission, and values of the church. The role of the elder team is provide oversight, accountability, and wisdom for the direction of the church. Elders are servant leaders who accept the tasks of managing conflict, making decisions, and maintaining truth.

## **ELDER RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Pray for the congregation, staff, and other elders.
- Protect the congregation from false teaching (Acts 20:28).
- Serve and support the Harvest community in areas that include, but are not limited to, peacemaking, teaching, and care-giving.
- Monitor the church's spiritual condition and keep the church focused on the mission and vision.
- Provide accountability, protection, and development for the pastoral staff.
- Exercise church discipline when necessary. The objective of Christian discipline is to seek restoration rather than punishment (Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1; Titus 3:10; 1 Corinthians 5).
- Licensure and ordination of individuals to Christian ministry.
- While the elder board will be responsible for decision-making at Harvest, they will bring the following items to the congregation for 'affirmation': an annual church budget, elder' recommendations for additional elders or pastoral staff, dismissal of elders or pastoral staff, taking on debt, dissolving the church.
- Elders will generally meet on a bi-monthly basis with the lead pastor establishing and guiding the meeting's agenda.
- Elders will work together as a unified team in the best interests of the church.
- Elders must trust and respect one another.
- Elders must respect confidentiality in sensitive matters.
- Elders and pastoral staff will develop and process new initiatives together as we live out the mission and vision of Harvest.
- All decisions will be made by consensus.
- The pastoral staff will keep the elder board informed of any relevant trends, issues, needs, changes, or problems that could affect the ministry of Harvest, either positively or negatively.



# SECTION TWO

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

1. **Must be a Christ-Follower (Born again, John 3:3), must have given a public profession of faith.**
2. **Must be baptized according to the Scriptures (by immersion, after conversion, as a symbol).**
3. **Must attend membership class or must have attended the first two Harvest Church Worship Services of the new year when the Membership Covenant is covered during the sermon time.**
4. **Must annually sign and, to the best of their ability, live by the standards set forth in the membership covenant.**

## **COVENANT:**

**Covenant is defined as “a binding agreement made between two or more parties”; enforce as “to compel” or bind as “to make certain as a moral duty”.**

**A Covenant is used commonly in legal, social, and theological contexts to express a commitment or coming together of parties to agree on promises, stipulations, privileges, and responsibilities along with God in the sight of God.**

# SECTION THREE



## **BELIEFS:**

1. We believe the doctrinal beliefs most commonly held by the Southern Baptist Convention in “The Baptist Faith & Message”.
  - a. We believe these statements are not exhaustive but,
  - b. Given in order to emphasize the foundations of our faith.
2. The Holy Scriptures will be the final authority in all church matters.



# SECTION FOUR

## AMENDMENTS:

These by-laws may be amended by the Elder Team at any regular or special meeting of the elders.

In witness of, we have here unto subscribed our names this 8th day of March 2011:

Tony Foeller  
Jeff Willis\*  
Dexter Rhodes\*  
Jake McPheron\*  
Nick Martin\*\*

John Casper  
Lyn Crabtree  
David Parks  
Jerry Hase

David Hogue  
Danny Miller\*  
Gregg Aldridge  
Davy Miller\*

\* = no longer an elder at Harvest Church of Southern Illinois due to taking another assignment.

\*\* = new to the elder team at Harvest Church of Southern Illinois since our original by-laws were enforced.





## **I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH BY:**

- Acting in love toward other members and participating in a Life Group. (John 13:34, Ephesian 4:32, 1 John 4:11)
- Refusing to gossip such as sharing or listening to information that does not seek to build the other up. (Ephesians 4:25-26, Galatians 5:15)
- Following the leaders as they follow Christ. (Hebrews 13:17)
- Seeking Unity (Philippians 2:2, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Romans 14:13-19, Romans 15:1-7, Ephesians 4:1-5)

## **I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH BY:**

- Praying for its growth, health, and influence.
- Praying for leadership, others, self, daily, any time, any place. (Luke 11:1, Romans 8:26, Hebrews 7:25)
- Inviting the unchurched to attend. (Luke 14:12-23)
- Warmly welcoming those who visit. (Romans 15:1-7)



# COVENANT

## **I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH BY:**

- Discovering my spiritual gift(s) and joining a servant team. (1 Peter 4:1-11, Ephesians 4:1-16)
- Being equipped to serve by my pastors. (Ephesians 4:1-16)
- Developing a heart of a servant. (Philippians 2:1-11)

Your spiritual gifts can be discovered and discerned through the mechanism of a "Spiritual Gifts Assessment" which is available on our church website for free: [harvestchurchsi.com/servantteams](http://harvestchurchsi.com/servantteams).

Through the church's preaching ministry, our ongoing Life Groups ministry, and by means of various special events, members are encourage to develop their spiritual gifts more completely for maximum influence in our community and health in our church body.

## **I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH BY:**

- Attending faithfully (Worship Services and Life Groups). When you are not prohibited by compromised health or a personal/family emergency, please make corporate meetings with fellow church members a priority. (Hebrews 10:19-25)
- Living a godly life. A godly life means living out your faith in between Sundays. Who we are away from church meetings matters. It is important that we seek to apply lessons from our Bible studies to everyday relationships, circumstances, and situations. (Philippians 1:27-30)
- Giving regularly. Giving means we encourage our members to be guided by the words "generous" and "sacrificial". We do not get hung up on percentages or particular amounts. We offer the convenience formembers to either give through offering envelopes or online through our website. (Malachi 3:6-12)



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