Membership Covenant

<u>Vision</u>

Cedar Grove Baptist Church exists to create a space where people and families can *meet* Jesus, *find* community, and *grow* in their faith.

<u>Mission</u>

Our purpose is to *love* others unconditionally, *learn* about God increasingly, *live* to share Jesus intentionally and *lead* others to Christ continually in Lebanon, TN and throughout the whole world.

Having received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and having professed faith in Him through baptism and being in agreement with the purpose of Cedar Grove Baptist Church, I_____ now feel led by the Holy Spirit to join in membership with the Cedar Grove Baptist family. Therefore, I commit to do the following:

1. **I will uphold the sanctity of the <u>family</u>.**

   - By making my family a priority and intentionally spending quality time them.
   - *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21*

   - By making the Bible the primary source of instruction.
   - *"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

   - By daily praying for my family and with my family.
   - *"These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer..." Acts 1:14*

2. **I will live daily with <u>integrity</u> in thought, word, and deed.**

- By meditating on things that honor God.

- *"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Philippians 4:8*

- By honoring God with my speech.

- *"Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person." Colossians 4:6*

- By honoring God with my actions.

- *"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves." James 1:22*

3. **I will build and grow each of the four <u>relationships</u> represented in the purpose statement of my church.**

- By seeking to love others unconditionally.

- *"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." John 15:12-13*

- *Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

- By growing in our faith through learning about God increasingly.

- *"Make me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day." Psalm 25:4-5*

- By building up the church through living to share Jesus intentionally.

- *"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15*

- By expanding the kingdom of God through leading others to Christ continually.

- *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name*

of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

4. **I will wholeheartedly <u>commit</u> myself to the purpose and mission of my church.**

   - By attending faithfully.
   - *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10:23-25*

   - By giving cheerfully.
   - *"Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7*

   - *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows." Malachi 3:10*

   - By working diligently.
   - *"The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, But the soul of the diligent is made fat." Proverbs 13:4*

5. **I will protect the bond of <u>unity</u> of my church.**

   - By being of one mind and in one accord with the leaders and fellow members.
   - *"make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:2*

   - By refusing to gossip and slander.
   - *"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." Ephesians 4:29*

   - By praying for my church.
   - *"Brethren, pray for us." 1 Thessalonians 5:25*

6. **I will exhibit accountability in my <u>relationship</u> with Christ and with fellow believers.**

- By growing daily in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and submitting to His Lordship
  - *"Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:12*

  - *"He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything." Colossians 1:18*

- By beginning and growing accountability partnerships with fellow believers.
  - *"Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17*

7. **I will serve both my church and my community with <u>excellence</u>.**

- By discovering and employing my gifts.
  - *"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly:…" Romans 12:6*

- By doing everything for the glory of God.
  - *"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." Colossians 3:23*
  - *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31*

In signing this membership covenant, I acknowledge that I have made a personal profession of Christ as Savior and Lord, I have been baptized by immersion as a public symbol of that profession, and can contribute to the unity and ministry of Cedar Grove Baptist Church. I will be both a disciple to others and willing to be discipled by others to grow together in the faith with my fellow church family. Furthermore, I understand that the church will hold me accountable to this covenant and has the Biblical responsibility to practice church discipline should I willfully or repeatedly offend any portion of it. I now wish to join with this fellowship.

For a more detailed understanding of our doctrinal beliefs please refer to the **Baptist Faith and Message 2000.**

Signature _____

Date _____