

# Member Covenant

## Of Risen King Church

Adopted March 29, 2026.

The covenant for Risen King Church adapts the “Solemn Covenant,” which the English Reformed Baptist pastor Benjamin Keach wrote in 1697. Pastor Andy Naselli of our mother church, Christ the King Church, has adapted it slightly to make it more readable.<sup>1</sup> Covenants are a serious business. We enter into covenants voluntarily. When we do, we make solemn oaths that bind us together with the other covenantal parties in committed relationship before God.

Therefore, a covenant is made up of *promises* — we voluntarily obligate ourselves to one another.

A covenant is *binding*. We do not enter into covenant relationships lightly, and we cannot dismantle them flippantly.

A covenant has *relationship* as its focal point. Whereas a contract is oriented around the separate goals or interests of two parties, a covenant joins those two parties, along with their goals, in a committed relationship.

A covenant is made *before God*. We are answerable to God for the covenant promises that we make. Moreover, God has the right to validate and approve (as in the marriage covenant of one man and one woman) a covenant.

It is fitting that fellow church members make a covenant. As we see with Keach’s “Solemn Covenant”, Baptist churches have historically adopted church covenants to define and describe how they agree to live as a church and relate to one another as church members.

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<sup>1</sup> Editor’s note by Andy Naselli: This adapted version lightly updates some punctuation, spelling, capitalization, grammar, and archaic words to make the covenant more readable. The original version appears as the final section in this short book: Benjamin Keach, *The Glory of a True Church, and Its Discipline Display’d Wherein a True Gospel-Church Is Described: Together with the Power of the Keys, and Who Are to Be Let in, and Who to Be Shut Out* (London: n.p., 1697). A reprinted version of the book is available for free [here](#).

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With the help of the Holy Spirit, we who desire to walk together in the fear of the Lord profess our deep and serious humiliation for all our transgressions. In the presence of God and each other, with a sense of our own unworthiness, we solemnly surrender ourselves to the Lord in this local church according to the apostolic design. We surrender ourselves to the Lord so that he may be our God and we may be his people through the new covenant of his free grace in which alone we hope God accepts us through his blessed Son Jesus Christ. We take Christ to be our High Priest to justify and sanctify us, our Prophet to teach us, and our King to rule over us. We aspire to conform to all his holy laws and ordinances<sup>2</sup> for our growth, edification, and encouragement so that we may be as a holy spouse unto him, serve him in our generation, and wait for his second coming as our glorious Bridegroom.

Being fully satisfied in the way of church-fellowship and of the presence of the truth of grace in some good measure in one another's lives, we solemnly join ourselves together in a holy union and fellowship by humbly submitting to the discipline of the gospel and all holy duties required of a people in such a spiritual communion.

1. We promise to walk in all holiness, godliness, humility, and brotherly love and as much as in us lies to render our fellowship delightful to God, comforting to each other, and lovely to the rest of the Lord's people.
2. We promise to watch over each other's behavior and not to allow sin against one another, so far as God shall reveal it to us; to stir up one another to love and good works; and to warn, rebuke, and admonish one another with meekness according to the rules Christ left us. In particular, we promise to encourage husbands as the head of their wives to love them as Christ does the church; to encourage wives to submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ; to encourage children to obey their parents in the Lord; and to encourage fathers to bring up their children with a Christian education and enculturation.<sup>3</sup>
3. We promise in a special manner to pray for one another, for God's glory to be displayed in this church, for the increase of this church, for the presence of God in it, for the pouring forth of his Spirit on it, and for his protection over it to his glory.

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<sup>2</sup> "Ordinances" refer to baptism and the Lord's Supper.

<sup>3</sup> We added this sentence to emphasize God's good design for marriage and the family in Ephesians 5:22-6:4.

4. We promise to bear one another's burdens, to unite with one another, and to show hospitality in loving fellowship<sup>4</sup> with one another in all conditions both outward and inward into which God in his providence shall place any of us.

5. We promise to bear with one another's weaknesses, failings, and infirmities with much tenderness and to follow what God instructs regarding church discipline.

6. We promise to strive together for the truth of the gospel and the purity of God's ways and ordinances and to avoid causes and causers of division, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

7. We promise to meet together on the Lord's Day and at other times as the Lord shall give us opportunities, to serve and glorify God in the way of his worship, to edify one another, and to strive for the good of his church.

8. We promise according to our ability (or as God shall bless us with the good things of this world) to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the ministry of the church.<sup>5</sup>

(And now can anything lay a greater obligation upon the conscience than this covenant? What then is the sin of those who violate it?)

We humbly submit to these and all other gospel duties. We promise and purpose to perform not in our own strength—being conscious of our own weakness—but in the power and strength of the blessed God, to whom we belong and whom we desire to serve. To him be glory now and for evermore.

Amen.

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<sup>4</sup> The original says, "to have loving fellowship."

<sup>5</sup> The original says, "to communicate to our Pastor of Minister, God having ordained that they that Preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel."

Signed March 29, 2026: