

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

When anyone enters into relationship with God by grace through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, they are entering into two covenants. The first is to journey with God for the rest of their lives and love Him fully. The second is to journey with His body, the universal and local church. Your commitment to a local church is a recognition of the second covenant.

A covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other (**Ezek. 20:44; 36:22; Ps. 76:11; Hos. 2:19–20; 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:13**). Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to His bride, the church (**Eph. 5:25**).

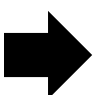
The Gathering Harlem's Membership Covenant affirms the covenant between God and the universal church and further helps to carry out the vision God has for TGH. This covenant supports an authentic community that reflects the trinitarian God (Father, Son & Spirit) and encourages consistency, accountability and unity within the church.

It is important for you to know that this commitment does not imply that we will never fall short, but that the desire is to fulfill every promise stated to the best of our ability.

We trust that our commitment will be a personal blessing to our members and visitors.

"When you make a vow to the Lord, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools. Fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it." - Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

TGH's Membership Covenant includes a statement of faith, biblical guidelines for the local church, TGH's obligations to its members, and the members obligation to TGH.

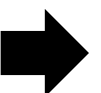


TGH'S OBLIGATIONS TO ITS MEMBERS

- We covenant that your leaders & future elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (**1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4**).
- We commit to regularly pray, care, and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service (**Eph 4:11-13**) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (**James 5:14**).
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel that will span the whole counsel of God's Word (**Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim 5:17-18, Acts 20:27-28**).
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (**Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:1-5**).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (**Acts 20:28-31**).
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (**Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1**).
- We covenant to make decisions that are governed by the mission & vision of The Gathering Harlem. (not "what will help TGH be successful?," but "how will the kingdom of God be fully realized in Harlem?").

MEMBER'S OBLIGATION TO TGH

- I commit to embrace TGH's values, vision, and mission.
- I have read and understand the TGH Statement of Beliefs and agree to not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (**Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:7, 17**).
- I will not function in leadership or as a covenant member in any other local church.
- I covenant to follow the biblical procedure of church discipline found in **Matthew 18:15-17** in relation to the body of TGH and submit myself to church discipline as scripture instructs (**1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 2:5-8; Galatians 6:1-5, 8; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10-11; Revelation 2:5-7, 14-25**).
- I commit to regularly pray for one another and the ministry of TGH.
- I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular personal Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of the other spiritual disciplines.
- I commit to make an effort to participate in church gatherings regularly (**Hebrews 10:23-25, Psalms 105:1-2, Acts 2:42-47**).



MEMBER'S OBLIGATION TO TGH (CONTINUED)

- I commit to serve faithfully to forward the mission & vision of TGH (**1 time, 1 team, 1 a month**).
- I will strive to properly manage the resources God has given me, including my time, body, spiritual gifts, talents, attitudes, finances and possessions (**Acts 2:42-47, Proverbs 3:9-10; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-16; 5:15-18; Gal 5:22-26**).
- I commit to give financially regularly to further the mission & vision of TGH. This includes but is not limited to the biblical model of tithing (**Genesis 14:20; 2 Chronicles 31:4-5; Malachi 3:10; 2 Cor 8:9, 9:6-7; 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19**).
- In obedience to Scripture, I have followed or commit to the biblical procedure of baptism (**Matthew 3:15, 28:18-20; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21**).

TGH GOVERNING & LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

The Gathering Harlem is a non-denominational church which means that we are an independently governed congregation.

ELDERSHIP & THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Elders are a team of overseers of the local church who guide the community into God's mission (**Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5**). The ultimate goal for TGH is to establish an eldership team in the future.

As a church plant, TGH was established and functions with a management team through our church planting organization, The Orchard Group. The management team oversees the church budget, overall church direction and the lead pastor. Members are made up of Pastors or Elders from our main supporting churches. Local TGH members are rotated onto the team as supporting church members rotate off. When the management team is made up completely of TGH members, it will transition to become a formal eldership.