



BIG CREEK COWBOY CHURCH * OUTRIDERS FOR CHRIST

Membership Covenant

"Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been scripturally baptized, and being in agreement with this church's statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Big Creek Cowboy Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

...By acting in love toward other believers

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus," **Romans 15:5** *Now the god of patience and consolation grant you to be like minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:*

"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart." **1 Peter 1:22** *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble." **1 Peter 3:8** *An a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*

...By refusing to gossip

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." **Eph 4:29** *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

...By following the leaders

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." **Heb 13:17** *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith will follow, considering the end of their conversation.*

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

...By praying for its growth

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers." **1 Thess 1:2**

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Phil 1:4,5 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy. For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

...By inviting the unchurched to attend

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full'" **Luke 14:23** *And the Lord said unto the servant, go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

...By warmly welcoming those who visit

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

Rom 15:7 *Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.*

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

...By discovering my gifts and talents

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." **1 Peter 4:10** *As every man has received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

...By being equipped to serve by my pastors

"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" **Eph 4:11-12** *And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

...By developing a servants heart

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...[who] made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant" **Phil 2:3-5,7** *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

...By attending faithfully

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching." **Heb 10:25**

Not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

...By living a godly life

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." **Phil 1:27**

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do" **1 Peter 1:14-16**

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy.

...By giving regularly

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD." **Lev 27:30**

*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. **1 Cor 16:2***

5: Voting Rights of Membership

Every Voting Member shall have the right to vote on the following matters:

1. Annual budget of the Church
3. Disposition of all or substantially all of the Church's assets
4. Merger or dissolution of the Church
5. Acquisition of real property and related indebtedness
6. Amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Church

7. Call or removal of the Senior Pastor

6: Termination of Membership

Members shall be removed from the Church rolls for any of the following reasons:

1. Death

2. Transfer of membership to another church by letter of recommendation which shall be granted after approval by the Pastors

3. By personal request of the member

4. Dismissal according to the following conditions:

a) When the member's conduct, public or private, violates the Membership Covenant as determined by the Pastors, and

b) Such dismissal has been communicated to the Church in a timely manner by a Pastor, in accordance with **Matthew 18:15-17**. *Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained a brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it to the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*

7: Restoration of Members

Members dismissed by the Pastors shall be restored to full membership privileges by the Pastors according to the spirit of **2 Corinthians 2:7,8** when their conduct is judged by the Pastors to be in accordance with the Membership Covenant. Pastors will communicate such restoration to the Church in a timely manner. **2 Cor. 2:7-8** *So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.*

Signature: _____