

# **Membership Covenant**

# **Privilege and Responsibility**

Membership in the Church is a high privilege and responsibility. We believe the Covenant required of members is consistent with the teaching of the written Word of God. Faithfulness to the covenant is evidence of the individual member's desire to sustain a saving relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord, to bring glory to God, to advance the cause of God on earth, to preserve the unity of the body of Christ and to cherish the fellowship of the Free Methodist Church.

When a member does not keep his/her covenant and habitually violates his/her vows, it is the responsibility of minister and members to point to the failure and to seek in love to restore the member. If, after these steps have been taken, the member does not keep his/her commitments, he/she must be dealt with in accord with the due processes of the Church.

Members of the Free Methodist Church, trusting in the enablement of the Holy Spirit and seeking the support of the other members of the Church, make the following confession and commitments as a covenant with the Lord and the Church.

### The Confession and Commitment

We confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. By faith, we walk with Him. We commit ourselves to know Him in His full sanctifying grace.

#### As Regards God

As God's people, we reverence and worship Him.

We commit ourselves to cultivate habits of Christian devotion, submitting to mutual accountability, practicing private and corporate prayer, studying the Scriptures, attending public worship and partaking of Holy Communion; We commit ourselves to observe the Lord's Day, setting it apart for worship, renewal and service; We commit ourselves to give our loyalty to Christ and the church, refraining from any alliance which compromises our Christian commitment. This we do, by God's grace and power.

#### As Regards Ourselves and Others

As a people, we live wholesome and holy lives and show mercy to all, ministering to both their physical and spiritual needs. We commit ourselves to be free from activities and attitudes that defile the mind and harm the body, or promote the same; We commit ourselves to respect the worth of all persons as created in the image of God; We commit ourselves to strive to be just and honest in all our relationships and dealings. This we do, by God's grace and power.

#### As Regards the Institutions of God

As a people, we honor and support the God-ordained institutions of family, state and church. We commit ourselves to honor the sanctity of marriage, and the family: We commit ourselves to value and nurture children, guiding them to faith in Christ; We commit ourselves to seek to be responsible citizens, and we pray for all who lead. This we do, by God's grace and power.

## As Regards the Church

As God's people, we express the life of Christ in the world. We commit ourselves to contribute to unity in the Church, cultivating integrity, love and understanding in all our relationships; We commit ourselves to practice the principles of Christian stewardship, for the glory of God and the growth of the Church; We commit ourselves to go into our world and make disciples. This we do, by God's grace and power.