



## Renovation Church Missionary Covenant

I understand and embrace the following aspects of a covenant missionary's life with Renovation church....

Numerous passages show clear distinction between people who are considered a part of a local church expression and those who are not. The Old Testament shows a people covenanted together with God. Furthermore, the New Testament was written to local communities who were joined together in life and ministry. Our practice of covenant reflects the biblical truth that God always has a people walking with Him together, not simply individuals who believe things privately. Covenant is the outflow of scriptural teaching which calls us members of one body in the gospel (Romans 12:3-8). As a church we are called to submit to and pray for our spiritual leaders (Hebrews 13:17), and live life with mutual accountability to God and one another.

Renovation holds covenant in high esteem because we believe **it is the responsibility of believers to bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:1-6), gather together regularly to encourage one another towards love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24,25). We are to join together in ministry and trust Jesus to work through the pastors and elders of the church to oversee the spiritual health of the community.**

### **#1 Covenant Is for Followers of Jesus**

Covenant with a local expression of the church is something for Christians, those who have been saved by grace through faith in the completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Please take time going through Exercise 1 - "Writing out Your Story of Grace."

## **#2 – Participating in the Sacraments/Ordinances**

Missionaries in our church are to be baptized as a sign and seal of their new covenant relationship with God and alignment with his church. If you have not been baptized as a believer, we encourage you to do so at our next baptism celebration. If you were baptized as an infant, we will ask you in your interview with the elders for you to clearly articulate your faith and understanding of what baptism accomplishes.

As a follower of Jesus and missionary with the church you are encouraged to celebrate the Lord's Table each Sunday at our gatherings. The Lord's Table is a place where we celebrate the continued faithfulness of God to his people in Jesus. We also receive spiritual nourishment from him, proclaim the gospel and our trust in it and come in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## **#3 - Hearing and Heeding the Word of God**

As a covenant missionary you commit to regularly attending the gatherings of Renovation church to hear and heed the Word of God. You also must agree to the close-handed issues of our doctrine and theology (See Appendix I), recognizing your willingness to affirm and uphold this teaching. We accept our responsibility to hold to the trustworthy word as taught (Titus 1:9) and not to entertain false gospels (Galatians 1:6-9).

## **#4 – Raising Our Families in the Gospel**

As covenant missionaries with Renovation Church we acknowledge that the primary locus for spiritual formation and discipleship of children is in families (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). As a community we desire to help one another in this process by bearing one another's burdens, sharing counsel and wisdom in parenting, serving and helping in ministries which assist raising our kids in the gospel (Renovation Kids, Men's Advance, women's retreats, etc.).

## **#5 – Living in Gracious Accountability**

As a family we want to offer gracious accountability to one another to live out our mission and identities while submitting to and supporting biblical leadership. Our elders promise to give care to your lives and give account to God for their oversight of the church. As covenant missionaries we want to make their difficult calling more joyful and less burdensome.

Hebrews 13:17: *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."*

We commit to resolving conflict with one another in a biblical fashion and to refrain from gossip, slander and false testimony about our neighbors. When our lives stray from the truth or if we continue the practice of unrepentant sin, we will offer gracious accountability and discipline to one another. The goal is love, reconciliation and repentance, so that the gospel is seen and God is honored (1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:13-15).

All our covenant missionaries will walk together in one of our City Groups where they can know and be known, serve others and live out the gospel, community, and mission.

#### **#6 – Stewardship and Giving**

Our covenant missionaries take the responsibility and make the commitment to fund the mission of God through our church. We do not expect or ask visitors to our church to provide the necessary resources for our mission. We trust God, through our covenant missionaries, to provide the bulk of the finances necessary for the ministry. We will ask at the start of each fiscal year for a pledge of what covenant missionaries believe the Lord has called them to and will enable them to give. This allows the elders to be good stewards of Renovation's resources and plan accordingly for our ministry year. If you do not plan to contribute financially to Renovation Church you should not consider covenant. (Please read Appendix III on financial stewardship.)

#### **#7 - Serving Others on Mission**

God has given talents and spiritual gifts to each one of his people for the building up of the body of Christ and for doing the work of the ministry. We expect all our covenant missionaries to steward these well and to give time and talent in our work together. Far too often, a small number of committed individuals (the 80/20 rule) do all the work for a cause; this is unacceptable. Every covenant missionary has an obligation to some aspect of the ministry of Renovation Church.

A. For the Church: Renovation has various ministry teams always in need of dedicated people who are willing to serve. The following are some areas of service:

- Renovation Kids – teaching and assisting in teaching our children

- Worship/Bands – leading our community in music and song
- Production – helping with sound, recording, computers
- Set-Up and Tear-Down – as a church plant we set up and tear down every week. All of us should help in this area
- Hospitality– greeting visitors and welcoming friends into our community on Sunday mornings and helping them towards covenant
- Offering
- Prayer
- Communion
- Mercy & Justice
- Marketing
- Service Programming
- Communion
- Leading City Groups
- Serving within your City Group in one of the five areas of leadership and in various other ways.

For the World: We expect all of our covenant missionaries to build friendships with those outside of the faith. We want to travel life with people who do not yet know Jesus so that the gospel might bear fruit and save them. We want each of you to consider how you are particularly gifted to accomplish this great task.

### **Understandings of Life and Mission**

Carefully read through these statements and sign at the end of the document if you can commit to these understandings.

I (and my family) have prayed through, discussed, and have come to the understanding that:

- **Highs and Lows:** Life through the gospel, in community and on mission is incredibly exciting. It is also difficult. As well as times of celebration, rejoicing, and fulfillment in deep community, there will also be times of pain, frustration, financial challenge, loneliness, and disappointment.
- **Don't Expect Perfection:** Even though we have the opportunity to build a church that is passionate about Jesus and his mission, we will still have unmet expectations with our community as well. It will not be the "perfect church" and will not satisfy us in every way.

- **Sacrifice Will Be the Norm**, not the exception. I understand that following Jesus on mission will require an “all hands on deck” mentality. However, I commit to be candid with the leadership when my service is causing my life to be imbalanced. We want to care for one another in this.
- **Building Trust in Leadership**: There will be times that we think the church should go in one direction, but the leadership will take it in a different direction. When this happens, we understand that even when we don’t agree, we will stand behind them, believing the best about them, assuming they are prayerfully doing what God is guiding them to do.
- **No Entitlement**: We are asking God to do a special work in the southeast through our labors. Our reason for being a part of this community is not based in any way on what we hope happens in the future for us personally. We are in this for His glory, the good of others and not our own glory.
- **For the Good of the Team**: There will be an almost constant restructuring of the organization of our church as God grows our ministry and we plant additional churches. We may experience being in charge of an area one year, which falls under someone else’s leadership another year. We will need to hold our responsibilities with open hands at all times. None of us will have “pet projects” that we must lead. We might be in charge of an area as a volunteer that needs a staff person to be hired above us as it grows. The ministry may outgrow my capacity to lead it. The person who is hired may not have the experience we have in that area, and could be hired from outside of the church. We are OK with that and will be excited about working under that individual. We will not take that personally.
- **Forms Will Change**: I understand that the purpose of the church is to demonstrate the glory of God in the world. Though the function of the church will never change (our mission), the forms of the church may change. The leadership of the church will seek God concerning how best to equip us in each season of the life of the church. Different ministries will have different "shelf lives."
- **Lots of Good Ideas**: Ideas and decisions will be prayed and thought through. There are many outside-the-box thinkers and many resourceful, creative people in our team. We understand that input will be at high value. We understand that our ideas may be just the thing that carries the church to its future. We also understand that our ideas may not always be accepted, and at times, may not be asked for. We will be OK with that and not take that personally.

- **Relational Expectations:** The potential for rich community will be great, considering the like-minded people who feel called to this team. However, I understand that we will not all be best friends. Some people will be closer with one another than with others. Some people who have previous history together may find themselves connecting with new people. I understand that biblical community is not creating a comfortable “bubble,” but that it is meant to encourage one another toward a deeper love for Jesus and a life that brings glory to God. The multiplication of City Groups and new churches will require some painful distance in deep relationships. We are willing to sacrifice our own relational comforts so that others can come to know Jesus.
- **Conflict Resolution:** We will have conflict with one another. Whether we are the offeree or the offender, we commit to taking every step to resolve issues that bring temporary division to the Body of Christ. Sometimes this will need the assistance of church leadership. I commit to not slander or gossip about anyone in our community.
- **Cheering for the Big “C” Church:** I (we) commit to building up other gospel-centered churches in Atlanta. We are not in competition with them. We have the same mission, yet will each have unique ways of living out our God-directed identities. If we really desire to see Jesus’ mission go forward here, then we will not be competing for church folks; rather we will direct our efforts toward the mass of humanity currently living apart from Christ.
- **God Wills It:** I (we) have sought the Lord and truly feel like it is His will that I (we) be a committed covenant missionary with Renovation Church. Regardless of the circumstances that I (we) will face in the months and years ahead, we will be convinced that God called me (us) to this and be unified in this decision. I am/we are in 100% agreement that this is God’s best for us in this season of our lives. I am/we are not entering into this decision with unhealthy expectations, and I am/we are not simply following a personality or ministry philosophy. I am/we are confident, as best as I (we) can be, that we are following God to establish Renovation and a movement of missional church planting for his glory and the good of our communities by extending hope through the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **Healthy Joining:** I (we) commit to uphold “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” among the Body of Christ in Atlanta. I (we) know that Renovation is committed to healthy relationships with other local expressions of the church in the area, and I (we) understand that Renovation will not officially welcome people who have unresolved conflict at a previous church.

- **Healthy Parting:** I (we) understand that our commitment to this church is not to be taken lightly. I (we) will be an integral part of the Body of Christ. If at some point I (we) are called to serve in another missionary field or with another local expression of the church, I (we) commit to making this decision in the midst of community by seeking counsel and discussing the matter with church leadership. It will always be my goal to preserve unity in this community and not seek to selfishly harm God’s work for my own agendas.
- **Need to Revisit:** I (we) understand that expectations are extremely hard to control. We understand that though we may have just read all of the above statements and agreed with them, we are probably going to need to return to these themes in the months and years ahead.<sup>1</sup>

Having read the doctrine and theology of Renovation Church, understanding and supporting the teaching, mission, identities and nature of our covenant together as the church, I/we believe God has called us to covenant with this community of believers, indicated by our signature[s] below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Missionary Profile and Check List Profile**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Include Names and Birthday of Each Child

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Some language borrowed from Pastor Reid Monaghan, Jacob's Well, NJ.

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (you) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (spouse) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (you) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (spouse) \_\_\_\_\_

Meta (Facebook, Twitter, Blog) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Missionary Check List**

- I have successfully completed the Covenant Missionary Classes
- I am a Christian and have written my story of grace and written out my understanding of the gospel
- I have been baptized or will be baptized at the next Baptism celebration of Renovation Church
- I have carefully read and signed the Renovation covenant

### **Next Steps**

- Connecting with a City Group (if not presently connected)
- Understand and use the website and social media site used by Renovation for giving, communication, et al. [The City and Renovationchurch.com]

Please complete this profile and check list and email to Ethan Seifried at [ethan@renovationchurch.net](mailto:ethan@renovationchurch.net). Upon completing this checklist, our pastor or one of our City Group leaders will be in contact with you.