

Annual Church Covenant

As a Church Membership we have committed that each year we will covenant together on the basis of our agreed Church Values below (Based on Baptist Union Values) in God's strength.

This covenant represents our desire and aspiration to live a godly life in following Jesus, and to do so with the support, fellowship and accountability of our brothers and sisters in the Hill Cliffe Church Family.

What it does not represent is the pretence that we are going to fulfil our aspirations perfectly.

We will make our new covenant at our AGM Church Meeting.

Because we take this joint-commitment seriously, If you are not able to make it to that meeting, please indicate the renewal of your covenant via email to Steve Gray, steve.gray@hillcliffe.info or in writing a brief note.

Hill Cliff Baptist Church's Church Values

1. We are a Worshipping Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Maintaining a close relationship with God through regular Bible reading, prayer and spiritual disciplines.
- Striving to live a life that glorifies Jesus with my whole life, submitting to the authority of God's Word as the final arbiter on all issues.
- Honouring God in all my relationships – in private, in public, in the home, in the workplace, or in the church – in my words and my actions.
- Worshipping God together in the gathering of our church family on Sundays and in the various other family gatherings for prayer, ministry and fellowship.
- Worshipping God in actively participating in obeying His missionary call.

John 4:23,24; 1 Corinth 12:11-13; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15,16; 1 Thess 2:8; Psalm 119:2

2. We are a Missionary Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Actively participating in God's missionary call to 'go and make disciples of all nations', in my family, my neighbourhood and my workplace.
- Sharing my hope in the One who is the way, the truth and the life.
- Actively supporting our missionaries and mission partners across the world in prayer and financial support.

Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Thess 2:8; 1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 5:13-16; Phil 2:12-18

3. We are a Holy Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Walking in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ who has saved me that I can live a new life in the Holy Spirit.

- Striving to live with integrity, honesty and faithfulness in all my relationships, loving and forgiving others as I have been loved and forgiven by God.
- Striving to maintain the unity in Christ amongst God's family at Hill Cliffe, refusing to gossip and back-bite, but rather honouring one another in the Lord.
- Striving to honour Jesus by avoiding involvement in anything we know contradicts God's Word and ideals.
- Seeking to put off the old nature and the sins against the body, such as sexual immorality, adultery, sex outside of marriage, pornography, gluttony, drunkenness, etc.
- Seeking to honour, preserve and protect the gift of marriage and God's ideals for marriage in our church family.
- Submitting to the loving discipline of the Holy Spirit and God's Word in confession, repentance and restoration when we sin.

Ephesians 5:1-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; 2 Timothy 3:1-17; 1 Peter 1:13- 2:2; Romans 6:123; 1 John 1:5-10

4. We are a Sacrificial Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Sacrificing my time and comfort in serving our family at Hill Cliffe – in prayer, encouragement, care for the needy, in hospitality and in love.
- Sacrificing my money, time, gifts and talents in actively participating in the growth of the Kingdom of God.
- Sacrificing myself in identifying with those who are rejected, deprived and powerless.
- Sacrificing my time and comfort in purposefully serving the needs of the aliens and strangers, the vulnerable and the needy in our society in the love of Christ.

Romans 12:1; Luke 11:42; Hebrews 13:5; 2 Corinth 9:7; 1 John 2:2

5. We are a Prophetic Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Seeking to encourage and bless my church family in speaking and acting prophetically as I am led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and guided by God's Word and our Church leaders.
- Seeking to speak and act prophetically in our wider society in tune with godly wisdom, justice and grace – confronting evil, injustice and hypocrisy and challenging worldly concepts of power, wealth, status and security.

Romans 16:25-27; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Acts 2:17-19; Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 13:1-3; Phil 2:12-18

6. We are an Inclusive Community

I commit afresh in God's strength to...

- Helping ensure that the gospel and the church transcend the barriers of language, race, class, age, gender and culture in the Christ-like love of God.

John 3:16-21; Galatians 3:26-29; Revelation 7:9,10