

MY MINISTRY COVENANT



A covenant goes beyond a superficial agreement to volunteer when it's convenient. It's a commitment to responsibility and action; and what holds us together in all of this, is our love for Jesus Christ and His mission to reach lost people.

Acknowledgment of what my ministry looks like at CVC

Here at Christian Victory Church, we believe that any person who participates in any form of service to this body, no matter how menial it may appear to be, is involved in ministry leadership & followership. We further believe that God intended these ministries to be carried out with a servant's heart. Although our talents, personalities and gifts may vary, Jesus clearly demonstrated a servant style of ministry that is uniquely different than the world's approach.

“Do nothing from selfish or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance of a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”
Philippians 2:3-8 (NAS)

Servant leadership begins with the heart, with our attitude and with our motives. A servant-leader can be characterized by submission, love, compassion, persistence in the pursuit of God's will, and self-sacrifice. Here are some verses to further meditate on what servanthood really means: *John 6:38-40, John 15:12-13, John 17, 1Corinthians 13, Philippians 2:3-8.*

After you have read each section, write your initials in the spaces provided.

My Qualifications for Ministry at CVC:

To qualify for ministry at Christian Victory Church requires a desire to be a disciple – which means a desire to walk in a manner that Jesus walked. While you may not feel you qualify because of areas of personal struggle, we recognize that God's grace, His power and ability to overcome these things, is available and that there is forgiveness if we stumble, because Jesus shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sin. Jesus loves us where we are at but loves us too much to leave us there. The Holy Spirit desires to work with us to become more like Christ in order to display His lifestyle and attitudes.

Our primary mandate in this church is to “train up the saints for the work of the ministry, teaching them how to draw upon God’s grace, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, applying biblical principles in their daily lives, walking in victory and living in love”. This demonstration of life change and modeling biblical truths, gives those who are young (in age or faith) an example to follow. It gives the church community confidence in the integrity of their church and the quality of the vision.

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Modeling a Biblical Lifestyle:

The biblical lifestyle is both a life of participating and a life of overcoming or abstaining. In participating, we are to fully involve ourselves in the life of Christ, drawing upon His resurrection power to change us from the inside out. Abstaining from what the Bible refers to as acts of the sinful nature, means we understand this is what God calls sin and it will hurt us and others. While we may be struggling with some areas of sin in our life, our desire is to walk in freedom and be willing to ask for help from others in the areas of weakness we may be facing.

The behaviors the bible describes as leading to pain and suffering, would include the following:

adultery; cohabitation that includes physical intimacy without the desire to make changes; occult practices; gossip/speaking negatively about others; drunkenness; lesbian or homosexual activity without the desire to make changes; criminal activity; any sexual abuse.

All who are involved in ministry must endeavor to practice living their lives in a way that glorifies Jesus Christ. We are all on a journey and we understand that none of us are perfect and we must make allowances for that, extending grace and mercy to each other because Christ extended it to us. However, if a person chooses a lifestyle contrary to Christ’s example and doesn’t wish to change it could mean they are also choosing to step back from serving in certain areas because of the impact it would have on those they are trying to minister to and serve.

Our desire is to always help someone overcome and to experience the restoration that Christ offers to all of us, but that requires repentance and a desire to make changes. This would be demonstrated through a willingness to submit oneself to a process of healing and restoration in order to experience freedom and deliverance.

The Pastoral Team and/or their designate will be primarily responsible for the process of restoration.

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Guiding Principles in Restoration

The church is spoken of as a body with each member contributing to its overall health and success. (1 Corinthians 12)

When one part of the body is infected or injured by sin or by being sinned against, a restorative process needs to occur so that full health and strength may be regained. Our desire isn't to punish because Jesus was punished for us, but rather to help the person get free from the deception of sin and its painful consequences to themselves and others.

The restoration process is normally a confidential process. It calls for the pastoral leadership to care for and love the person enough to confront them and to empower them to walk into freedom.

Covenant Acknowledgement:

I understand and agree to the content of this Ministry Covenant. The following statements help to further define my commitment:

I will protect the unity of my church

- by acting in love toward other members of the body of Christ
- by refusing to participate in gossip
- by being supportive of Christian Victory Church's Statement of Faith (<http://www.cvchurch.ca/about/statement-of-faith/>)
- by complying with Christian Victory Church's Constitution and By-laws.

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony and on the growth of our fellowship together." (Romans 14:19)

"Have a sincere love for other believers; love one another earnestly, with all your heart." (1 Peter 1:22)

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs." (Ephesians. 4:29)

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men/women who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you." (Hebrews. 13:17)

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II I will share in the growth of my church

- by praying for its growth
- by inviting the unchurched to attend
- by warmly welcoming those who visit.

“To the church – We always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.” (1Thessalonians 1:1-2)

“The Master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes, and urge the people there to come so my house will be full’ (Luke 14:23)

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” (Romans 15:7)

III I will support the testimony of Jesus Christ

- by keeping a regular, personal quiet time of Bible reading and prayer and regularly confessing my sins before God
- by abstaining from any act or attitude that is counter-productive to the purposes of the church and/or its ministries

“Let us not give up meeting together ... but let us encourage one another.” (Hebrews 10:25)

“Whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.” (Philippians. 1:27)

IV I will respond to situations based upon CVC’s core values

“We lead people into a relationship with Jesus Christ, providing an environment for divine relationships to promote growth and wholeness. We empower people to walk in victory and live in love and learn how to effectively share God’s goodness with others.

V Value priorities

- we go out of our way to express God’s love to people
- as a family we allow people time to grow

VI In this family there are guidelines put in place so things run smoothly:

1) People: They are valuable to God and to us. This affects our thoughts, attitudes, actions and communication with them. We assist people where they are, but encourage them to move forward from being a victim to a victor over the situations they face. We empower, not patronize them. We are responsible to others, but not for them.

2) Love: To “love your neighbor as yourself”, we must first receive God’s love and then allow it to flow out towards others. With love comes mercy, patience and believing the best of others (1 Corinthians 13). We love others enough to be truthful with them.

3) Fellowship: It is a major channel of God's blessings to us and through us towards others. It provides opportunities to lead others to Jesus Christ and therefore we do not isolate or withdraw but draw others into divine relationships.

4) Doctrine and Teaching: Our two objectives are to share Jesus with nonbelievers and to train, equip and empower believers to become effective witnesses and do the work of the ministry. It is primarily accomplished through teaching and one on one relationships where we impart the application of truth. We are committed to helping develop people's gifts and talents to enable them to fulfill God's plan for their lives.

5) Breaking of bread: Our covenant with God determines what we think and the way we act towards others. Covenant also means we are in the same family, therefore gathering regularly as a church body is important so we can all contribute to helping one another grow (Acts 2:42).

6) Prayer: It must be the beginning and end of all we do for without it – unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain. *For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7).*

7) Faith: Faith pleases God therefore we walk by faith trusting His leadership in our lives. Our faith translates into good works. *No one can please God without faith, for whoever comes to God must have faith that God exists and rewards those who seek him (Hebrews 11:6 TEV).*

8) Outreach: It is a component of all we do to fulfill the great commission that Jesus gave His life for. God works with us as His Ambassadors through the ministry of reconciliation leading others to Jesus.

9) Finances: Jesus said those who are faithful in what belongs to another will be given their own. We support God's plan with God's provision through our cheerful generosity. We believe God blesses us in order to be a blessing. We operate in abundance because we are connected to the source of abundance.

10) Praise & Worship: We express our love and gratitude to our Lord and Father through our varied expressions of worship. Thanksgiving, praise and worship are the gateway into the very presence of God, and prepare our hearts to receive from His Word and the Holy Spirit. We worship God corporately and privately through a variety of means, including the singing of songs, expression of thanks in prayer, and our acts of service.

The leadership of CVC recognizes that commitment is a two way street and we want you to know what an authentic covenant relationship looks like from our perspective.

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COMMITMENT OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV

Our Commitment to Christian Victory Church as a Whole

- We commit to being leaders people can confidently follow by:
 - a) keeping the vision clear and stewarding it faithfully
 - b) sharing how we can all participate in the vision
 - c) helping each member find their gifts and identify their calling
 - d) providing training opportunities to equip people to participate
 - e) raising up ministries as the Holy Spirit directs
- We commit to leading CVC towards the exciting vision the Lord Jesus has given us.
- We commit to working to provide a safe environment where everyone can develop and grow with confidence. We will train those called to help us to provide pastoral care so the needs of the body can be met.
- We commit to the pursuit of excellence in every ministry area of the church.
- We commit to being godly examples for you to follow as we follow Christ Jesus.
- We commit to spending time with God in prayer and the study of the Word, to feed those entrusted to our care from the fresh manna we have received in God's presence.
- We commit to ministering the Word with boldness, integrity, and by the leading of the Holy Spirit, so that you are strengthened, edified and set free from the enemy.
- We commit to pursuing spiritual gifts; to minister in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit, but more importantly, that our lives would display the strong love of God, no matter what situation we are facing.
- We commit to leading with boldness, always seeking first to understand what Jesus Christ, the living head of CVC, is asking of us and this body. We determine to do our best not to draw back out of fear or intimidation, but instead pressing forward to be strong and courageous.
- We commit not to be people-pleasers, but to please God and serve His church as servant leaders in the way He directs us, even though we know people could misunderstand.
- We commit to surrounding ourselves with godly leaders who have permission to speak guidance and counsel into our lives, and to remain humble and teachable.

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Our Commitment to You Personally

- As Christ's servant leaders we commit to serve you as He specifically directs us.
- We commit our lives to helping to prepare you to fulfill His plan and purpose for you, as you allow us input into your life.
- We commit to using our gifts and callings to the best of our ability, to assist you in fulfilling your role in Christ's body. We will seek God for wisdom, insight and revelation knowledge to understand how to equip you to do the works of God effectively.
- We commit to being your coaches, and to encourage you to grow through any circumstance you might find yourself in.
- We commit to believing the best of you, speaking the best about you, and when we see a problem that could strain God's bond of love, to speak to you in truth and love so we fight to maintain our relationship in Christ.
- We commit to honesty, speaking guidance, instruction or correction into your life as God directs us, to assist in your spiritual development.
- We commit to showing you mercy, without being judgmental or critical, and to giving you opportunity for restoration should you stumble in your walk with God.
- We commit to honoring and respecting you, seeing you through the eyes of Christ becoming all that he has created you to be.
- We commit to praying regularly for you, that Christ may be fully formed within you, that you would know the hope of His calling, for revelation knowledge of His will, and to know the exceeding greatness of His power that works mightily within you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we make these commitments and ask God for grace to empower us to do our part in fulfilling these commitments.

In turn, we ask for your understanding, mercy and prayers as we take this journey together; imperfect humans learning to walk in victory, live in love and share the good news that is changing our lives.

Working together for His glory!

The Pastoral Leadership

Initial: _____

Commitment of Those Called to be Part of the CVC Family

I commit to:

- Admission that, as a believer, I am also in the ministry of reconciling those God brings across my path back to Him.
- Consistent church attendance so I can grow in my relationships and be trained for works of service.
- Recognize that, no matter how well trained I am, I still have areas of growth and those given oversight will be able to see things that I can't to help me become more effective for the Kingdom.
- Agreement with the Tenants of Faith of CVC found at: <http://www.cvchurch.ca/about/statement-of-faith/>
- Receive the Pastoral Leadership as the head and spiritual authority of this local body, drawing from the Holy Spirit's anointing upon them, receiving counsel, instruction and guidance.
- Finding an area of ministry within the church where I can serve and be further trained.
- Not trying to change this local body to fit my personal tastes, but recognizing that God has given us our style and flavour so that we can reach the people He is calling to CVC.
- Adapting myself to flow with this local body, not to create division, and understanding that there can be more than one right biblical way of doing certain things.
- Praying regularly for the church, its pastors and leaders, etc.
- Walking in love, refusing to gossip or be critical of others.
- Realizing there are people at different places in their walk with Christ within this local body, I will extend grace and mercy to them, encourage and pray for them, and commit to never gossip about them.
- Financially supporting the work of Jesus Christ through this local assembly through my tithes and offerings.
- Having a Pastor pray with me that God would supernaturally graft me into the CVC fellowship.

I understand that Christian Victory Church is responsible for the welfare of any person entrusted to my care, and thus I will co-operate fully with the pastor and leadership team in the fulfillment of my duties.

If, at any time, I find that for any reason I am unable to support the policies, procedures, or doctrines of Christian Victory Church, I will gracefully and quietly resign my position.

If I choose not to live a life that is consistent with God's word, so that my witness as a follower of Jesus Christ is compromised, I will withdraw from my position of ministry and submit to a process of restoration.

Initial: _____

Please sign and return this page only.

Keep the My Ministry Covenant for your records.

I, the under signed, have read and agreed to the My Ministry Covenant. I will seek out one of the CVC pastors and have them pray with me that God will supernaturally graft me into the CVC fellowship.

Date: _____

Name: (Please Print): _____

Signature: _____

