

# The Hopewell Church of God Membership Covenant

*"Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with Hopewell's Mission, Message, Methods and Ministries, I now have joined (or will join) the Hopewell Church of God Family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and the other members to do the following:"*

## 1. I Will Protect The Unity of My Church

- ...By acting in love toward other members
- ...By refusing to gossip
- ...By following the leaders

*"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together." Romans 15:19 (Ph)*

*"Live in complete harmony with each other - each with the attitude of Christ toward each other." Romans 15:5 (LB)*

*"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts." I Peter 1:22 (GN)*

*"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 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*

## 2. I Will Share The Responsibility 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."*  
*I Thessalonians 1:2*

*"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full."* Luke 14:23 (LB)

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

### **3. I Will Serve The Ministry Of My Church**

- ...By Discovering my gifts and talents
- ...By being equipped to serve by my pastors
- ...By developing a servant's heart

*"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..."*  
*I Peter 4:10 (Ph)*

*"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..."* Ephesians 4:11-12

*"Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..."* Philippians 2:3-4,7

### **4. I Will Support The Testimony Of My Church**

- ...By attending faithfully
- ...By living a godly life
- ...By giving regularly

*"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another."* Hebrews 10:25

*"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ."* Philippians 1:27 (Ph)

*"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering."* I Corinthians 16:2

*"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's and it is holy."* Leviticus 27:30

# PERTINENT INFORMATION ABOUT...

## Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee

### A. Facts about the Church of God

1. Began in 1836 as Christian Union with strong ties to the Holiness Movement
2. Recently celebrated winning its second million members overseas, took 89 years to reach the first million, 5 years to reach the second million, projected 3 years to reach the third million
3. April, 1993, Time Magazine named the Church of God, Cleveland, TN, as the fastest growing denomination in North America with a 183% growth rate, 1965-1989
4. Member of:
  - National Fellowship of Evangelicals
  - Pentecostal Fellowship of North America
  - American Bible Society
5. Structurally modeled similar to the Methodist Church with centralized form of government
6. Represented in 136 countries around the world with over 30,000 churches and 5 million members
7. Is the oldest Pentecostal Denomination in North America - 1896
8. Has over 70 Bible Schools and Colleges, 3 Homes for Orphans, Boy's Home, Home for Unwed Mothers

### B. Why Denominational Affiliation is Important

1. Provides a structure for protection of the local church in the event of a leadership crisis
2. Provides a missions organization with integrity allowing maximum dollar impact on the mission field (48 hours turn around)
3. Provides a system of accountability through authority structures: District, State, International
4. Provides local church ministry impact beyond its own community
5. Provides a doctrinal base that promotes balance
6. Provides the local church with direct contact to the entire world
7. Provides historical perspective that gives both roots into yesterday and wings for tomorrow