

Developing a Mini-Church Covenant

“A covenant is a road map to where we are going.”

A covenant is a contract between Mini-Church members that defines the direction of the Mini-Church and the commitment required to meet the group goals. Each Mini-Church develops their own covenant based on the essential elements listed below:

Examples of Covenants in Scripture

- God and Abraham – Genesis 17
- Jonathan and David – 1 Samuel 18
- Christ and the Church – 1 Corinthians 11:25, 2 Corinthians 3:6

Benefits of a Covenant

- Vision for Mini-Church is clear for all who are a part of the community
- Responsibilities and expectations of members is stated
- Conflict resolution is expected
- Open Chair helps us reach the disconnected and grow the connected
- Multiplying the Mini-Church is a reality to prepare for and celebrate

Essential elements to include in a covenant:

Confidentiality: What is said in the Mini-Church stays in the Mini-Church. Nothing said in the Mini-Church should be discussed outside the Mini-Church without the permission of those involved. Not even as a prayer request.

Respect Others: We do not advise, analyze or “fix” others. We are to support, encourage and build each other up towards Christ-likeness.

Limit Sharing: Everyone in the Mini-Church needs to share. We will be sensitive not to dominate the Mini-Church discussion times and limit our discussion. Please use sharing with a neighbor and not always “all” group sharing.

Regular Attendance: We will make a commitment to our Mini-Church to show up at the appointed meeting times, be on time and end on time. When we cannot attend, we will call the host to let them know.

Listen: Everyone needs a listening ear. When someone is talking, they have the floor. Everyone else should actively listen.

Conflict Resolution: Whenever relationships are involved, there will be conflict. We will handle the conflict Biblically according to the guidelines of Matthew 18 by first speaking with the person who has hurt or offended us.

Avoid Offensive Statements and Jokes: We are all on the same team. We should, therefore, guard against offending one another. If someone offends us, we commit to work it out directly with him or her.

Open Chair: Mini-Churches are open to others who are seeking community. We encourage our members to invite and include others who want to experience connecting with God in community.

Multiplying Plan: Because your group is open to others please begin now to develop and state your multiplying plan.

Apprentice: Who is the leader in training for our Mini-Church who will be ready to lead a multiplying group?

Be prepared: Come ready to fully participate in your Mini-Church including completing any homework.

Scripture: Scripture will be taught in such a way as to be applied to life and will be in line with the Faith Church’s values and beliefs

Serving: We commit to serving our community and impacting our world. This can be carried out in a variety of ways.

Questions that can help your mini church form a covenant:

- How do we want this Mini-Church to impact our lives?
- What commitments will it take from each of us to make that impact?
- Are we willing to make these commitments to each other?

MINI-CHURCH COVENANT

WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES

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Multiplying Plan:

Apprentice:

Be prepared:

Scripture: Scripture will be taught in such a way as to be applied to life and will be in line with the Faith Church’s values and Beliefs.

Serving:

WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best (some or all) to attend the following service together:
 Sat 6 pm Sun 8:00 am Sun. 9:30 am Sun. 9:30 am (Cedar Lake) Sun 11:11 am

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____