

## Covenant & Commitment: A Four-Week Series on Covenant Membership

### Week One (Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>)

**Sermon Title:** Covenant: A Living, Breathing Thing

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 17:1-10, 15-16; Exodus 24:1-8; Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Focus:** What is a covenant? What's the difference in a covenant and a contract? Why did God want a covenant with his people? What examples do we have of covenants today? We will look at biblical covenants and consider how covenants are the deepest of all commitments, for they involve a spiritual component impacting us at the deepest level of our lives.

**Tags/Key Concepts:** covenant, commitment, sacred vow, promise, agreement, allegiance, love, union, marriage, partnership, relationship, investments, priorities, etc.

### Week Two (Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>)

**Sermon Title:** Covenanting with Christ & the Church

**Scripture Reading:** Hebrews 8:1-13; Matthew 26:26-30; John 14:1-10

**Focus:** God has established a new and everlasting covenant through Christ. Jesus said he is the way, and the truth, and the life. He is God in the flesh. He then calls forth a community of committed believers to testify to this truth. Does commitment to Christ lead to exclusivism? How can we be faithful to Jesus in a pluralistic age? Where is the line drawn between the church and the world? As members of a local church, how do we live in the tension of Christ's exclusive claims and his all-inclusive call to love others?

**Tags/Key Concepts:** centrality & supremacy of Christ, loving neighbor, extending the table of fellowship, pluralism, inclusivism, exclusivism, judgment, discernment, family, faithfulness, etc.

### Week Three (Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>)

**Sermon Title:** A New Covenant, A Renewed Vision

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 21:1-13; Psalm 105:1-11; Ephesians 2:1-10, 19-22

**Focus:** The biblical narrative reveals that God desires to bless us regardless of our repeated unfaithfulness and our failure to follow his guidance, if only we would repent and believe. God can take our messy lives and bring good out of it. This renewed vision comes by entering into a living covenant with him and joining together with others who desire the same. We were saved and baptized into Christ and his community. How can we go deeper with Christ by establishing an active covenant and commitment to the local church?

**Tags/Key Concepts:** broken promises, bad experiences, cynicism, hopeful realism, repenting of individualism, beauty from ashes, letting go of the past, new chapter in life, new vision, etc.

### Week Four (Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>)

**Sermon Title:** Covenant as Christian Discipleship

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 12:1-13; Hebrews 10:15-25; Luke 14:25-33

**Focus:** We live in a self-absorbed culture that prefers a moral therapeutic deism and a passive receiver model of the church over an active allegiance to the disciple-making commands of Jesus. Covenant membership challenges the current spirit of the age—rugged individualism—by offering a Christ-centered, missional church family as a counter-cultural response. We are called to follow Jesus in the reversal of Babel. What does this mean from an Anabaptist perspective? What does this look like for you and our church?

**Tags/Key Concepts:** Body of Christ, sharing the journey, being intentionally present and active, a living covenant with the church, Anabaptist view of discipleship, deep community, developing your spiritual gifts, serving, making disciples, real communion, covenant membership, etc.

CMF will be holding a Covenant Membership signing ceremony following the sermon of this service.