

“LWBC Member Statement of Commitment”¹

1. Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior, and, supreme Treasure of our lives,² and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,³ we do now, in the presence of God, most solemnly and joyfully enter into the commitment and responsibilities of membership⁴ at Living Word Bible Church.⁵
2. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit,⁶ to walk together in Christian love;⁷ to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and peace;⁸ to give it a place in our affections, prayers and services above every organization of human origin;⁹ to sustain its worship, ordinances,¹⁰ discipline, and Gospel teaching, and not to undermine its doctrine;¹¹ to welcome, and test biblically, instruction from the Scriptures by the elders of the church,¹² seeking to grow toward biblical unity in the truth; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church,¹³ the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.¹⁴
3. We also engage, by the grace of God,⁷ to diligently and intentionally instruct and train up our children in the Christian faith;¹⁵ to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;¹⁶ to walk circumspectly in the world; to be kind and just in our dealings, and faithful in our engagements, to avoid all backbiting and sinful anger; to seek God’s help in abstaining from all activities or habits which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another’s faith; always endeavoring in purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith.¹⁷
4. We further engage, because of God’s grace,⁷ to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto every good word and work;¹⁸ to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other's joys, and with tender sympathy bear one another's burdens and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy;¹⁹ to be slow to take offense, but always diligent to seek reconciliation without delay, being mindful of the directives of our Savior in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew;²⁰ and through life, amid ill repute, and good repute,

whether in days of hardship or ease, to seek to live to the glory of God, who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.²¹

5. We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this Statement of Commitment and the principles of God’s word.⁶
6. We acknowledge that implicit within this Statement of Commitment is the voluntary consent to be governed by those standards and means which have been officially adopted by the church²² in recognition of the authority of God’s word.²³ These standards and means include the Church Constitution, the Articles of Faith, and the elders of the Church.²⁴

¹ Sources: Traditional Baptist Church Covenant; Bethlehem Baptist Church Covenant (Minneapolis). This “Member Statement of Commitment” is rooted in, and flows from the LWBC Articles of Faith (AofF), the LWBC Constitution (Const.), and the LWBC Statement of Vision (SofV) (See notes 2-24).

² Const., 2.10.; AofF, Salvation, Election and Assurance, par.s 1-3

³ Const., 3.6.1.; AofF, Baptism

⁴ Const. 3.6.3. & 3.6.3.4.

⁵ AofF, The Church, par. 1; Const. 2.9., Commitment of Members, 3.6.3.

⁶ Const. 2.3.; AofF, God the Holy Spirit; SofV, II. E.

⁷ SofV, II. F.

⁸ AofF, Sanctification; AofF, The Church, par.s 2 & 3; Const. 2.9., Talents and Gifts; SofV, II. A.

⁹ Const. 2.9.; SofV, II. A.-G.

¹⁰ SofV, IV. A.; AofF, Baptism; AofF, The Lord’s Supper

¹¹ Const. 2.11.5.2.; SofV, II. F.

¹² Const. 2.5.3.

¹³ Const. 2.9., Treasures; Const. 3.3.3.10., 5.2.

¹⁴ Const. 2.9., Treasures

¹⁵ SofV, 4.C. & Addendum: A Portrait of the Christian family

¹⁶ AofF, The Church, par. 2; SofV, II. G. & 4. B.

¹⁷ AofF, Salvation, Election and Assurance, par. 4; AofF, Sanctification; SofV, II. B.; Const. 3.6.5.1.

¹⁸ Const. 2.9., Time

¹⁹ Const. 2.9., Fellowship, 3.6.5.1.

²⁰ Const. 2.11. & 4.

²¹ AofF, God the Father, par. 2; AofF, Man; AofF, Sanctification; AofF, The Age to Come; SofV, I.; 1 Pet. 2:9

²² Const. 8. & 3.6.5.2.

²³ AofF, Holy Scriptures; Const. 2.2.

²⁴ AofF, The Church, par.s 2&3; Const. 2.1., 2.4.-2.8., 3.1.-3.5.; SofV, II. D.