

FOF Covenant Renewal

At FOF, our goal is to help you commit to God and his people in a continually deeper manner. Membership becomes an important part of that spiritual journey. For us it has nothing to do with acceptance or belonging. Instead, it's about committing to Christ and the people he has brought together in our church community.

This is expressed in our membership covenant. It encapsulates what we believe life with Christ and his Body are about. Whether you're a member or not, the contents of this covenant are what we want for you as a vibrant follower of Jesus.

What follows is our membership covenant. It's broken up into sections, each followed by a series of yes/no questions. Use it as a tool for self-reflection, renewal, and recommitment.

- Find a place where you can focus.
- Begin with prayer and ask God to guide you.
- Read each portion of our membership covenant.
- Answer the yes/no questions.

The purpose is not to critique. Instead it's to provide a guide for honest self-reflection.

- Where has God been growing you?
- In what ways do you need to repent?
- What are areas you are thankful for?
- Where is God challenging you to grow?
- Where do you need to (re)commit to him?

Though the nature of a yes/no question feels absolute, approach them in general terms. Be honest with yourself. A good honest "no" beats a half-hearted "yes."

FOF Membership Philosophy

Being a member of Fellowship of Faith is not about belonging. Joining isn't about being accepted or having access to special rights and privileges. Anyone can belong at FOF the moment they walk in the door. To join a church is to unite with a movement of God among a particular group of people.

Becoming a member at Fellowship of Faith is about taking on a very specific role in the congregation. Jesus said, "I have come to serve, not be served." Membership at Fellowship of Faith means doing the same. To become a member is to shift from guest to host. A member is one who strives to give more than receive, feed before being fed, and serve rather than be served. Membership means living for something more than ourselves and pouring our lives into the vision and mission God has for Fellowship of Faith.

Answer the following in terms of how you see yourself at FOF.

I see myself more as a host than a guest: **Yes** **No**

I seek to give more than receive: **Yes** **No**

I seek to feed before being fed: **Yes** **No**

I seek to serve rather than be served: **Yes** **No**

I strive to pour myself into the mission of FOF: **Yes** **No**

How do I flip a "no" into a "yes"? _____

re:Connect

At Fellowship of Faith we never want to be a sea of nameless faces. We believe the way of Jesus does not go alone and that we are called to be in fellowship with each other. Membership means doing life together. We want to be an Acts 2 church, where—

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

I covenant to: Worship regularly. Connect with others frequently in smaller settings. Partner with others to further God's work in this church and our world.

I feel connected to others at FOF: **Yes** **No**

I worship at FOF 40+ times/year: **Yes** **No**

I regularly attend a Discipleship Group or Sunday morning study: **Yes** **No**

I regularly connect with others at FOF outside of Sunday morning: **Yes** **No**

I've formed a relationship with someone new at FOF in the past year: **Yes** **No**

How do I flip a "no" to a "yes"? _____

re:Affirm

We desire to conform our lives to the teachings of Jesus, clinging to the orthodox, historic Christian faith. We hold the Bible to be inspired by God, governing what we do and believe. We see the writings of the early Lutheran reformers as a guide for better understanding these truths.

I covenant to: Deepen my understanding of these teachings and reaffirm them as the governing source of my life and worldview.

I feel I know God better today than I did a year ago: **Yes** **No**

I am growing in my knowledge of the Bible: **Yes** **No**

I am growing in my understanding of Christian theology: **Yes** **No**

I regularly engage in FOF Faith Steps: *(reading & memory challenges, etc.)* **Yes** **No**

How do I flip a “no” to a “yes”? _____

re:Start

Membership means radically turning our lives over to God. We believe we are loved by God. And though we are broken, God yearns to redeem and restore every aspect of who we are.

We believe the only way to truly discover the depths of what God is calling us to is by stepping out of our comfort zones and taking leaps of faith. Following him is extreme and the life of faith is an adventure. It is a journey of discovering and re-discovering a deeper life with him every single day.

I covenant to: Restart my life every day—repenting of my failures and recommitting to live as God wants.

I feel closer to God today than I did a year ago: **Yes** **No**

I am more committed to Christ today than I was **Yes** **No**
a year ago:

I am confronting the sin I have in my life: **Yes** **No**

I can accept God's forgiveness for me: **Yes** **No**

I repent and recommit to God daily: **Yes** **No**

I am actively seeking to be obedient to God: **Yes** **No**

I am taking new chances for God: **Yes** **No**

How do I flip a "no" to a "yes"? _____

re:Give

We believe all that we are and all that we own ultimately come from God. A life of faith means giving back to him.

Membership means giving the first of what we receive in proportion to what God has given us. It is about embarking on a way of life where we continually become more generous and more sacrificial with our time and money—towards our church, our families, and the needs of others in this world. We find this a challenge. We find this a joy!

I covenant to: Give generously. Give sacrificially. Give the first of what I receive in proportion to what God has given me.

I feel more gratitude towards God today than I did a year ago: **Yes** **No**

I trust God with my time and finances more today than I did a year ago: **Yes** **No**

I am more generous than I was a year ago: **Yes** **No**
(with FOF, my family, and the needs of others)

I regularly serve at FOF: **Yes** **No**

I give...

Regularly, not randomly: **Yes** **No**

Proportionately from what I receive: **Yes** **No**

The first of what I receive: **Yes** **No**

Sacrificially, that affects my lifestyle: **Yes** **No**

How do I flip a “no” to a “yes”? _____

re:ignite

We don't see outreach as one component of the church. We see it as every component. We believe the Church is God's agent for bringing his restoration to a broken world. His call is not for us alone and Fellowship of Faith exists for something bigger than itself. As each of us are called to be disciples, so each of us are called to make disciples. Membership means pouring ourselves into this call.

I covenant to: Be a witness. Disciple others. Ignite the mission.

I feel a burden for people who are far from God: **Yes** **No**

I regularly pray for those who don't know Jesus: **Yes** **No**
(or have misconceptions about him)

I regularly engage in 60+ second conversations **Yes** **No**
with people at FOF I don't know:

I often share my faith with others or engage **Yes** **No**
in spiritual conversations:

I regularly invite people to FOF: **Yes** **No**

I encourage my family (or close friends) to **Yes** **No**
take part in FOF ministries:

I have made a membership commitment to FOF: **Yes** **No**

How do I flip a "no" to a "yes"? _____

Next Steps...

1. Record how many “yeses” and “nos” below:

AREA	Yes	No
Membership Philosophy		
re:Connect		
re:Affirm		
re:Start		
re:Give		
re:Ignite		

Don't worry if you have more yeses or nos. This is simply to help you see where you are.

2. Now that you have a sense of where you are, take a moment to thank God for ways he has grown you. Ask him to help you:

- Change a “no” into a “yes.”
- Use your “yes” to help someone else struggling with that “no.”

3. Share your findings with another at FOF.

- This can be your spouse or a friend.
- This can be at a Discipleship Group.
- Or it can be an FOF elder or staff member.

Listen to each other, pray for each other, and see if there are ways you can help one another flip a “no” to “yes.” It’s what being a disciple and making disciples is all about!

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Dave at pastor@fellowshipoffaith.org.