THE CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ. We engage therefore by the guidance of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and nurture, to promote its spiritual progress and spiritual development, to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines, to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin, to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and private devotion, to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger, to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior. We further agree to support one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the teachings of our Savior, and to implement these actions without delay. We also agree that when we leave this church or relocate we would unite with a like-minded church.

DOCTRINE

We believe:

A. That Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit.  

B. Christ is God.  
   *John 5:18, Exodus 20:23.*

C. God is one God in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  

D. The blood of Jesus Christ has made atonement for man's sin.  

E. In the Resurrection of Christ, the personal, visible and Pre-millennial Return of Christ, the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church and related events.

We believe:

a. In the Bodily Resurrection.  

b. In the Ascension.  
   *Hebrews 12:2.*

c. In the High Priesthood.  

d. In the Second Coming.  
   *John 14:3, Acts 1:11, I Thessalonians 4:16, James 5:8,*  
   *Hebrews 9:28.*
e. In the Pre-millennial Resurrection of the Righteous Dead. At the Rapture of the Church, souls of those who have died and gone to be with Christ will come back and be joined with their bodies. Christ will translate His Church from this earth. Between this event and His glorious return with His saints, believers will be rewarded according to their works. 

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\text{John 14:1,3, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, I Thessalonians 4:13-18,}
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\text{I Corinthians 15:42-44, I Corinthians 15:52, I Corinthians 5:10.}
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f. In the Post-millennial Resurrection and Judgement of the Unrighteous Dead. They will be judged and committed to an eternal conscience punishment in the Lake of Fire. \text{Rev. 20:11-15, Matthew 25:41, Mark 9:43-48, I Corinthians 15:24-28, 2 Thessalonians 1:9, 2 Peter 3:10-13.}


i. In the Millennial Reign. \text{I Corinthians 15:25, Isaiah 32:1, 11:4-5, Psalm 72:8, Revelation 20:14.}

We accept these Articles of Faith as the belief necessary for sound doctrine. The provisions are considered the fundamental and essential basis on which this church is founded, and none of the provisions of this article shall be amended. We, therefore, unite ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and adopt for our government plan of worship and service the following articles…

F. We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Acts 16:31, Romans 3:23-25.

G. We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired through the instrumentality of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore, is truth without any error of its content essence. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions, shall be tried. \text{II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21.}

H. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatory offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His substitutionary death on behalf of sinners, the just dying for the unjust, Christ; the Lord, bearing our sin in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all sufficient Savior. \text{Ephesians 2:8, Acts 15:11, Romans 3:24-25, John 3:16, Matthew 18:11, Philippians 2:7, Hebrews 2:14, Isaiah 53:4-7, I John 4:10, I Corinthians 15:3, II Corinthians 5:21.}

I. We believe Satan exists, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. \text{Matthew 4:1-3, II Corinthians 4:4, Revelations 20:10.}

J. We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. \text{Genesis 1 & 2, Colossians 1:16-17, John 1:3.}

K. We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from a sinless and happy state the consequence of which all mankind are sinners, not only by constraint, but of choice, and therefore under just condemnation without defense of excuse. \text{Genesis 3:1-6, Romans 1:18-32.}

L. We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus;
that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God. The new creation is brought about in a manner beyond our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel, that its proper evidence appears in obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. John 3:3, II Corinthians 5:17, I John 5:1, John 3:6-7, Acts 16:30-33, II Peter 1:4, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:1, II Corinthians 5:19, Colossians 2:13, John 3:8

M. We believe in the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him, namely justification:

a. That justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life, on principles of righteousness.

b. That is bestowed not in consideration of works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer’s blood, His righteousness is imputed to us. Acts 13:39, Isaiah 53:11, Zechariah 13:1, Romans 8:1, 5:9, 5:1.

N. We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ; and governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; in all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41-42, I Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11, Acts 20:17-28, I Timothy 3:17, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23-24, Acts 15:13-18.

O. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, which is a picture of our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. We believe that the Lord’s Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. The Lord’s Supper will be observed at least once each quarter. Acts 8:26-39, John 2:23, Romans 6:3-5, Matthew 3:16.

P. We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6, John 10:28-29, Romans 8:35-39, Jude 1.

Q. We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith, are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting happiness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Mark 3:18, Genesis 18:23, Romans 6:25, Matthew 25:34-41, John 8:21.

R. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that those in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored; and obeyed; except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of Kings of the earth. Romans 13:1-7, II Samuel 23:3, Exodus 18:21-22, Acts 23:5, Matthew 22:21, Acts 5:20, 4:19-20, Daniel 3:17-18.
BYLAWS

Article I
Membership

Section I. Conversion and baptism, in that order are prerequisites for local church membership. Persons may be received into membership from other Baptist churches, by relation of Christian experience and baptism; in each case the candidate must give evidence of change of heart and the testimony of a Christian life and adopting the faith and practice of this Church. All candidates for membership must appear before the pastor and deacons and be unanimously accepted by them before being recommended for membership to the congregation for vote and the formality of the right hand of fellowship. In the absence of the pastor, the deacons are sufficient.

Section II. A member may at his request be dismissed to the fellowship of another Baptist Church by letter of recommendation. A member wishing to withdraw from this church to enter some other denomination may be granted a certificate of Christian character and his name shall be erased from the roll.

Section III. A member under discipline is prohibited from all rights of membership. If found guilty of the charges made, he may, by two-thirds vote of all members present and voting, be expelled. Provided, however, that due notice of the meeting be given to all the church in advance, (except in the case of notorious sin); and provided also that the steps as pointed out by the Master in the 5th and 18th chapters of Matthew be strictly followed, to secure reconciliation and forgiveness, if possible before the church takes action.

Article II
Officers

Section I. The officers of the church shall consist of a Board of Deacons comprised of no less than three nor more than seven members, a Pastor, five Trustees, a Moderator, Clerk, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Mission Treasurer, Head Usher, Superintendent of Sunday School and an assistant, Chorister, Organist and Pianist and assistants. Additional officers may be created as needed upon recommendation of the Advisory Council and approval of the Church body.

Section II. The Board of Deacons shall have general oversight of the spiritual life of the church, aid the pastor in the performance of his duties, provide Christian instruction and ministry to the church membership, meet with applicants for church membership and recommend them for church fellowship, and have full charge of the Deacons’ Fund. The Deacons shall constitute a committee on discipline. Members shall be elected for terms of three years in such a way that no more that three shall be elected in any one year; no one shall be disqualified for re-election because of having previously held the office.

Section III. (a) The Board of Deacons shall act as a pulpit committee and after the unanimous acceptance of a candidate by the pulpit committee he may then be presented to the Church for action. The pastor shall be chosen by the congregation for an indefinite period by a two-thirds majority of the voters at a congregational meeting advertised two previous successive Sundays. Only men will be recommended, who without reservation can and will conscientiously sign the Constitution and bylaws, Article of Faith and Covenant of this Church. If at any time the Pastor’s Personal Belief, preaching or teaching shall not be of full accord with the Doctrines of this Church, he may be automatically dismissed from further service which shall be terminated immediately following a congregational meeting where he is not retained by a two-thirds vote.
(b) Normally the relationship between pastor and people may be dissolved within 30 days notice or unless otherwise agreed upon by both parties. If a pastor’s dismissal should be requested by the people because they believe the relationship detrimental to the Church’s welfare, a two-thirds vote of the congregation shall be necessary to retain or dismiss him in the capacity of Pastor.

Section IV. The Trustees shall hold and manage in trust all the property of the church including the cemetery. They shall have supervision of such property, arrange for all necessary repair, and disburse the funds to maintain the work and property of the church as the church shall direct. They shall provide for the care of the church building and employ a sexton for this work if they so desire. Any transaction of five hundred dollars or more shall be done by directive of the church body.

**Article III**
**Duties of Officers and Committees**

**Section I.** The Pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly, administer the ordinances, supervise the teaching ministry of the church, watch over its membership and spiritual interests and organize and develop its strength for the best possible service.

**Section II.** The clerk shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the church at all meetings, keep a complete registry of membership, issue letters of dismissal and certificates of Christian character as directed by the church, conduct all official correspondence and preserve all documents, papers and letters coming into their hands during the clerk’s term of office, delivering the same and all records kept by the Clerk or their successor.

**Section III.** The financial secretary shall receive all monies given to the church for local expenses and missions through regular channels and in special offerings. The financial secretary shall keep a complete and detailed record of all individual pledges and payments on same. Immediately upon recording the financial secretary shall turn over all money on hand for local expenses to the current expense treasurer. The financial secretary shall give quarterly and annual reports to the church.

**Section IV.** The treasurer shall receive from the financial secretary all funds contributed to the church for current expenses. At each quarterly and annual meeting the treasurer shall present a report of receipts and disbursements showing the actual financial condition of the church.

**Section V.** The missionary treasurer shall receive all mission funds and disburse accordingly to the will of the church monthly. At each quarterly and annual meeting the treasurer shall present a report of receipts and disbursements.

**Section VI.** The superintendent of the Sunday School shall conduct the sessions of the Sunday School, endeavoring to enlist the
hearty cooperation of the whole church in Bible study and instruction. The superintendent shall assist the pastor in looking after the spiritual interests of the school, seeking the early conversion of all who are under the superintendent’s care.

Section VII. The chorister, organists and pianists shall constitute the music committee and be responsible for providing the musical part of the worship and shall get the necessary material as authorized by the church.

Section VIII. At each annual meeting of the church the following committees and boards shall be organized to serve for one year. The selection of the personnel of these committees and boards who are not already elected officers of the church shall be by election or appointment as the church may direct at each annual meeting.

To WIT: a) The advisory board shall consist of the pastor, deacons, and trustees, and shall meet once each quarter, the time to be designated by the board. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor or by the request of three board members.

b) The flower committee shall be composed of two elected members who shall be authorized to send proper remembrance of the deceased.

c) There shall be an auditing committee composed of three members, one elected at each annual meeting to serve a three year term. It shall be the duty of this committee to audit the books of the mission and various expense treasurers at the end of the fiscal year, and to make a report of the same to the church at the annual meeting.

d) The head usher shall be responsible for his own committee and it shall be their duties to look after the seating and general comfort of the congregation, endeavoring to extend such courtesies as shall make all who come to the services feel at home in Unity Baptist Church.

e) The fiscal year of the church shall begin on January 1st and close on December 31st.

f) Nominating Committee

1. The nominating committee shall be appointed the first week of September.

   a. Chairman of the Deacons shall appoint one Deacon.

   b. Chairman of the Missionary Society shall appoint one church member from the Missionary Society.

   c. Sunday School Superintendent shall appoint one church member from the Sunday school.

   d. Chairman of the Trustees shall appoint one member from the Trustees.

   e. Pastor shall appoint one church member.

Section IX. Additional committees may be formulated as the need arises and recommended by the advisory council to be terminated when their services are no longer required.
Article IV  
Meetings

Section I. The annual meeting shall be held the third Thursday of November for election of officers of each year unless that Thursday is a holiday, at which time it shall be held the following Thursday.

Section II. Quarterly business meetings shall be held the first Thursday of April, July, and October and the third Thursday of January.

Section III. All special meetings may be called by the Pastor, the chairman of the board of Deacons, or the chairman of the board of Trustees.

Article V  
Voting

Section I. All officers shall be elected by ballot and shall hold their offices until their successors are elected and installed. When more than two candidates are presented on the first ballot and no one received a majority of votes cast, the one receiving the lowest number shall be dropped and a ballot taken among the remaining candidates, following the same procedure until one receives a majority of all votes cast. Vacancies in office may be filled at any regular business meeting.

Section II. In all matters of business, all members sixteen and over shall be entitled to vote.

Section III. A two thirds affirmation vote of all members present shall be required for the transaction of business of special meetings. Public notice of such proposed action shall be read by the clerk at the previous monthly business meetings or from the pulpit on two preceding Sundays.

Article VI  
Finances and Use of the Church

Section I. In accord with John 2:16 we believe that any money making projects should be prohibited, and that the work of the church should be supported by prayer, tithes and offerings.

Section II. No financial statements of giving shall be published.

Section III. The place of worship shall be wholly dedicated to God and His service. The Deacons shall permit only services which contribute to the Spiritual uplift and growth of its members. Social rooms shall be used as designated by advisory board.

Article VII  
Affiliation with other Organizations

Section I. At no time may this church become a member of any association, convention, or religious organization which attempts to dictate policies, influence its mission giving or in any way interfere with the independence of the Unity Baptist Church.

Article VIII  
Amendments

Section I. Additional articles may be introduced and adopted at any regular business meeting advertised two previous successive Sundays by a two thirds vote of all members present, providing such articles do not in any way interfere with the doctrine or independence of this church.