

Elders Covenant

1. The purpose of this document is to confirm my commitment to the Hartsville Pike Church of Christ leadership and to clarify interaction of the leadership body.
2. It is preferred that eldership decisions be made by consensus; however, if a consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be made by majority vote.
3. Once the eldership reaches a decision, I will set aside my own preferences and wholeheartedly back them through my attitude, words, and actions.
4. If I miss a vote, I agree to accept the outcome made without me, regardless of whether I would have chosen the same as the majority.
5. Within the eldership, I will be lovingly frank and honest and open in expressing my personal feelings and opinions. When my fellow elders' express feelings and opinions, I will listen respectfully. I will respect the confidentiality of matters discussed within the eldership, using appropriate judgment in sharing on need-to-know basis.
6. I recognize that, as an individual elder, I do not possess independent authority to make major decisions. Final authority rests with the collective eldership. Therefore, I will refrain from representing the eldership without their prior consent.
7. I will respect fellow elders and treat them equally.
8. I will refrain from making negative or critical remarks regarding any elder, members of the eldership, deacon, or staff member. I am committed to communicating about leadership with respect and positivity or choosing not to comment.
9. I understand the importance of teamwork among the eldership and ministerial staff. I will meet regularly with them for study, prayer, discussion of congregational matters, policy decisions, and planning.
10. I acknowledge the eldership's roles in shepherding, leadership, and oversight. I will set an example through teaching, guidance, encouragement, and empowering others to utilize their gifts in ministry.
11. If personal matters like illness, family issues, or job responsibilities prevent me from serving, I will feel at ease requesting and receiving support for either a short-term leave of absence or resignation, depending on what is most suitable. If I choose to take a leave of absence, I will inform and meet with the elders before returning to my role, resuming only with their mutual agreement.
12. As an elder, I aim to serve the entire congregation fairly, avoiding personal bias towards family or friends. If a situation involves potential bias, I will participate objectively and refrain from voting when appropriate.
13. While I shepherd this congregation, I am also part of the flock and will submit to the guidance of the elders. If an issue arises involving me, I accept that the elders may discuss and decide the best approach without my presence.
14. I acknowledge that I serve at the discretion of the congregation and that my position may be subject to periodic evaluations to determine continued service.
15. I serve in accordance with the approval of the eldership. If, at any point and for any reason, the unanimous consensus of the eldership (excluding myself) is to request my resignation, I shall comply promptly and without contesting their decision.