



CENTERPOINT C H U R C H

COVENANT PARTNER FAQ

What is a Covenant Partner?

1. Since 2019, our Board of Elders has used Policy Governance as a framework for governing our church. A key component to this governance style is something called Ownership Linkage. Jesus is the owner of the church, and collectively, you are connected to Jesus by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ownership Linkage is work the Board of Elders does to seek the leading of the Holy Spirit by listening to what the Spirit is saying to the church through the collective feedback from our Covenant Partners.
 - Covenant Partners are defined as baptized members who have professed their faith in Jesus, who support the Mission and Vision of the church, worship regularly at that church, serve in areas of the church where they are gifted, and give money cheerfully and regularly to the work of the church.
 - To clarify exactly who these persons are and to help the board receive feedback from them, a Covenant Partner Agreement is available annually for people to sign.

Why do we need Covenant Partners?

1. Becoming a Covenant Partner indicates your commitment to actively participating in the life of the church.
2. It is important to know who is engaged in the life of the church. The leaders of the church desire to communicate and gather feedback from those who are most engaged. The Covenant Partner Agreement identifies those who are supporting, worshipping, serving, and giving regularly to the church.

What is the difference between a Covenant Partner and a Member?

1. The Covenant Partner agreement does not change the status of membership in our church.
2. Members are those who are baptized and have professed their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Professing members have the opportunity to sign up to be Covenant Partners annually, if they desire to do so.
3. Signing up as Covenant Partners gives members the opportunity to take a step forward as leaders within the life of the church and to take responsibility for the church.
4. Covenant Partners agree to a higher level of commitment within the church. Covenant Partners can be elected to serve on the Board of Elders. Covenant Partners will be invited to vote to affirm the slate of those nominated to serve on the Board of Elders.
5. Covenant Partners provide a vital communication link to the Board of Elders through the Ownership Linkage segment of Policy Governance. As need arises, the board will look to Covenant Partners for feedback as the Board of Elders leads the congregation into the future.

Why is the Covenant Partner Agreement an annual document?

1. We recognize that life changes. We want to understand who is currently engaged in the life of the church.
 - Members may be in a season of life in which they cannot commit to serving and being fully engaged in the life of the church. During these seasons, they may choose not to sign up as Covenant Partners. As life circumstances change, they may decide to again engage more deeply and can choose to sign the agreement at that time.
 - Members may move away from the area and may no longer be engaged in the life of Centerpoint Church.
 - Some members may choose not to sign the Covenant but remain a valuable member of the church.
2. The Covenant Partner agreement will be available to be signed at any time throughout the year at the NEXT STEPS kiosk, but it will be intentionally rolled out each December and January.
3. Our denomination, The Alliance of Reformed Churches, has a similar process in which churches are asked to opt-in to the organization regularly (every 5 years). Pastors must also opt-in and be recertified. This provides mutual accountability, and accountability is a key value within The Alliance of Reformed Churches. Within our church, leaders, including Pastors, Elders, and Covenant Partners, will opt-in to a higher level of accountability appropriate for leadership within Christ's church.

If you are interested in becoming a Covenant Partner, click [here](#) to find the online form, or ask for a physical copy at Next Steps or in the central services office.