

MEMBERSHIP SERMON SERIES

Part 3: COVENANT

(Various Verses)

I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior (Acts 16:31) and have been baptized (Mk 16:16), and being in agreement with UCM's statements, strategy, and structure (Rom. 14:19), I now am led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Union Church of Manila family. In doing so, I commit to support the vision and values of UCM by (aspiring) to...

1. All Nations (Rev 7:9)

- Practice Hospitality (Rom 12:13)
- Welcome & invite others (Luke 14:23)
- Accept others (Rom 15:7)

2. United in Christ (John 17:23)

- Encourage (Heb 10:25b)
- Build Up (Eph 4:29)
- Respect others (1 Thess 5:12)

3. Centered in Christ (John 15:5)

- Pray (Col 4:2)
- Bible study (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- Worship (Rev 4:11)

4. Maturing in Christ (Eph 4:13)

- Christ Centered Community (Acts 2:42)
- Spiritual Growth (2 Peter 3:18)
- Obedience to Jesus (Mt 28:20)

5. Loving others through serving (John 13:34)

- Discover and use your spiritual gifts (1 Peter 4:10)
- Serve others (Eph 4:12)
- Give (2 Cor. 8:7)



The Union Church of Manila

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

(with Scripture References)

I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior (Acts 16:31) and have been baptized (Mk 16:16), and being in agreement with UCM's statements, strategy, and structure (Rom. 14:19), I now am led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Union Church of Manila family. In doing so, I commit to support the vision and values of UCM by (aspiring) to...

(Acts 16:30-31) He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

(Mark 16:16) Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

(Rom. 14:19) Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

1. ALL NATIONS

(Rev 7:9) a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.

- **Practice Hospitality**

- ◆ (Rom 12:13) Practice hospitality.

- ◆ (Deut 10:19) And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

- **Welcome & Invite others**

- ◆ (Luke 14:23) Then the master told his servant, Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.

- ◆ (Mt 25:35) I was a stranger and you invited me in.

- **Accept others**

- ◆ (Rom 15:7) Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

2. UNITED IN CHRIST

(Eph 1:10) to unite all things in Jesus, things in heaven and things on earth.

(John 17:20- 23) My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

(1 Cor 1:10) I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

(Phil. 2:2) then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

- **Encourage others**

- ◆ (Heb 10:25b) but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- **Build up others**

- ◆ (Eph 4:29) Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.



- ◆ (Proverbs 16:28) A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.
- ◆ (Rom 16:17-18) I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

- **Respect Others**

- ◆ (1 Thess 5:12) Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.
- ◆ (Heb 13:17) Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

3. CENTERED IN CHRIST

(Jn 15:5) I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

(Eph 3:16-19) I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

- **Pray**

- ◆ (Col 4:2) Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
- ◆ (Rom 12:12) Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

- **Bible study**

- ◆ (2 Tim 3:16-17) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- ◆ (Acts 2:42) They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- ◆ (John 1:14) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
- ◆ (John 8:31-32) To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- **Worship**

- ◆ (Rev 4:11) You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.
- ◆ (Heb 10:25a) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing.

4. MATURING IN CHRIST

(Eph 4:12-15) to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.



(Rom 8:28-29) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.

(2 Cor 3:18) we are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- **Christ-Centered Community**

- ◆ (Acts 2:42-47) 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.

- **Spiritual Growth**

- ◆ (2 Peter 3:18) Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (Heb. 6:1) Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity.

- **Obedience to Jesus**

- ◆ (Mt 18:19-20) Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
- ◆ (Phil 1:27) Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.

5. LOVING OTHERS THROUGH SERVING

(John 13:34-35) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

(John 15:17) This is my command: Love each other.

(1 Peter 1:22) Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

(Phil 2:3-4, 7) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others... but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

- **Discover and use your spiritual gifts**

- ◆ (1 Peter 4:10) Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.



- **Serve others**

- ◆ (Eph 4:12-13) to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
- ◆ (Phil 4:13) I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.

- **Give**

- ◆ **Jesus on Giving**

(Luke 6:38) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

- ◆ **Tithing**

(Lev 27:30) A tithe (tenth) of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

- ◆ **Jesus on Tithing**

(Mt 23:23) But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former (tithing).

- ◆ **God says, “Test me in this”**

(Malachi 8:10) Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

- ◆ **Not just one tithe in OT, but three tithes:**

First tithe supported the priests and Levites

(Num 18:21, 24) I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting.

- ◆ **Second tithe** to eat in the presence of God at the sacred festival.

(Deut 12:17-18) ¹⁷ You must not eat in your own towns the tithe of your grain and new wine and oil, or the firstborn of your herds and flocks, or whatever you have vowed to give, or your freewill offerings or special gifts. ¹⁸ Instead, you are to eat them in the presence of the Lord your God at the place the Lord your God will choose—you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites from your towns—and you are to rejoice before the Lord your God in everything you put your hand to.

(Deut 14:22-23) ²² Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. ²³ Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.

- ◆ **Third tithe** (every three years) to support Levites, foreigners, orphans, widows, and the poor.

(Deut 14:28-29) ²⁸ At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year’s produce and store it in your towns, ²⁹ so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

(Deut 26:12-13) ¹² When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied. ¹³ Then say to the Lord your God: “I have removed from my house the sacred portion and have given it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, according to all you commanded. I have not turned aside from your commands nor have I forgotten any of them.



◆ **Give Deliberately & Regularly**

(1 Cor 16:2) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

◆ **Give Voluntarily & Cheerfully**

(2 Cor 9:6-7) Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

◆ **Give Sacrificially**

(2 Cor. 8:2-4) Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

◆ **Give with Excellence**

(2 Cor. 8:7) But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

◆ **Give Worshipfully**

(2 Cor. 8:9) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

(2 Cor. 9:15) Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

◆ **Give Proportionately**

(Acts 11:29) The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea.

(Deut. 16:17) Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

◆ **Give Quietly?**

(Mt 5:16) In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

(Mt 6:1-4) Be careful not to do your “acts of righteousness” before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

