

Recognizing that we are called to serve with all our gifts, and in gratitude for the many blessings Christ has entrusted to me/us, I/we submit a Personal Covenant to regularly and cheerfully give my/our:

Time by .....

.....

.....

Talents by .....

.....

.....

Treasure by committing \$ .....  
per week to the church

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Stewardship is everything I do after I say 'I believe'.

# 4. COVENANT



Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel."

The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day.

Joshua 24:19-25a



## John Wesley

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, developed a covenant service which was used in churches on New Years Day. The first service was held in 1755. The heart of the Covenant service requires persons to commit themselves to God.

In the Old Covenant, God chose Israel to be his people and to obey his laws. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, has made a New Covenant with all who trust in him. We stand within this Covenant and we bear his name.

On the one side, God promises in this Covenant to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live no more for ourselves but for him.

## Wesley's Covenant

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

## Reflection

How comfortable are you with Wesley's Covenant?  
How committed are we to God?  
How committed are we to the Church?  
How can we respond to the call to be disciples of Jesus? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

In theology, the word "covenant" principally refers to any of a number of solemn agreements made between God and the Israelites. God's covenants with the Israelites are foundational to the old testament and form the grounds for the claim that the Israelites were God's "chosen people."

According to the terms of these covenants, the Israelites were told that they must worship God and obey His Law in order to receive spiritual and temporal blessing and avoid divine curse.

Covenant,  
in its most general sense, is a word for a solemn promise or similar undertaking.  
It's a binding or agreement between a God and his people.

## My Response

Jesus Christ has given me specific abilities and talents.

He has given me all the time and resources I need to do His call on my life. As well, He has given me the family I have, and will give me everything I will need in the future, when I need it.

He is my Lord and my Saviour. I accept I am responsible to Him for the way I live my life; to use time, talents, abilities, and possessions He gives me fully for His glory and to further His Kingdom.

Every minute of each day, and in all things I do, I promise to bring Him glory. I know I can do this only by His grace. I am confident that one day I will stand face to face with Him to give an account of my stewardship.

