

---

## Why?

The New Testament knows of no kind of Christianity apart from that which is committed to a local church. Becoming a Christian includes becoming a part of God's family, which is made visible through local churches. This is the place of assembly, worship, prayer, teaching, encouragement, accountability, and involvement.

At Richmond Alliance, we are committed to a faithful expression of this Biblical model through the formal commitment process of membership. We believe that all those who have expressed faith in Jesus Christ, have been baptized upon their confession of faith in Him, and attend Richmond Alliance, should commit themselves to active participation and membership in our local congregation. It is the simple formalizing of an understood commitment which marks the Christian life.

## Who?

The following are the requirements for membership at Richmond Alliance Church:

1. *Members must be baptized believers.*  
The church, being the "Body of Christ", and consists of all those who have been justified by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. They are united by the Holy Spirit into the one Body of Christ, of which He is the head. Thus, members are to be baptized believers.
2. *Members are to be Godly.*  
The apostle Paul refers to Christians as "saints", which is simply defined as "set apart ones". Therefore, a Christian's life is to be marked by an effort to live as distinct from the world, in the fulness of the Holy Spirit, in obedience to Christ.
3. *Members are to be Committed.*  
The body only matures and grows as each one "does its part", and so members should demonstrate a faithfulness in service within the local congregation. Every effort should be made to use one's time, gifts, and resources for the upbuilding of the church. Faithful attendance and giving are to mark the local church believer.

## What?

If you desire to join Richmond Alliance in membership, we ask you to prepare the following:

1. *A Written Testimony.*  
While it doesn't have to be long, please include the following:
  - a. Your recognition of personal sin and your need of forgiveness and redemption.
  - b. An understanding of who Jesus Christ is, and what He did on the cross.
  - c. An acknowledgement of repentance and trust in Him.
  - d. The results of conversion, and what has taken place in your life.
2. *Affirmation of our Statement of Faith.*
3. *Affirmation of our Church Covenant.*
4. *An Interview with the Senior Pastor and an Elder(s).* (This is an informal discussion to hear your testimony.)



## STATEMENT OF FAITH

*Richmond Alliance Church subscribes to the following statement of faith, which is the statement of faith of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.*

1. There is one God, who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest. He will come again to establish his Kingdom of righteousness and peace.
3. The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, sent to indwell, guide, teach and empower the believer, and to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.
4. The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of his will for the salvation of people. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.
5. Humankind, originally created in the image and likeness of God, fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All people are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The destiny of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment, but that of the believer is everlasting joy and bliss.
6. Salvation has been provided only through Jesus Christ. Those who repent and believe in Him are united with Christ through the Holy Spirit and are thereby regenerated (born again), justified, sanctified and granted the gift of eternal life as adopted children of God.
7. It is the will of God that in union with Christ each believer should be sanctified thoroughly thereby being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to God, receiving power for holy living and sacrificial and effective service toward the completion of Christ's commission. This is accomplished through being filled with the Holy Spirit which is both a distinct event and progressive experience in the life of the believer.
8. Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil as taught in the Scriptures are privileges for the Church in this present age.
9. The universal Church, of which Christ is the Head, consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and commissioned by Christ to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the Gospel to all nations. The local church, the visible expression of the universal Church, is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together to worship God, to observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to pray, to be edified through the Word of God, to fellowship, and to testify in word and deed to the Good News of salvation both locally and globally. The local church enters into relationships with other like-minded churches for accountability, encouragement and mission.
10. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life; for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.
11. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal and visible. As the believer's blessed hope, this vital truth is an incentive for holy living and sacrificial service toward the completion of Christ's commission.

## MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we do now in the presence of God and this church most solemnly and joyfully enter into this Covenant with one another as one body in Christ. We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

1. To walk together in Christian love;
2. To exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another;
3. To pray with and for one another, sharing our burdens, sorrows, and joys;
4. To be thoughtful and courteous to one another, to be slow to take offense, and to be quick to forgive and to seek forgiveness;
5. To guard the spiritual and Scriptural purity, peace, prosperity of the Church, and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God and Christ Jesus;
6. To assist, through the gifts of the Spirit, in the work of the Church and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God and Christ Jesus;
7. To contribute, as the Lord directs, to the financial support of the Church, the relief of the needy, and evangelism of all people;
8. To love and to pray for all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ;
9. To engage regularly in personal Bible reading and prayer, and to establish family devotions where possible;
10. To bring up such children as may be entrusted to our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;
11. To walk circumspectly in the world, to provide things honest in the sight of all men, to be faithful in engagements, exemplary in deportment, denying ungodliness and worldly lust;
12. To endeavor by example, by work, and by prayer, to win others to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord;
13. To purpose that when we remove ourselves from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this Covenant and the principles of God's word.

With the help of God, I agree with the Statement of Faith and commit myself to this Covenant.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_