

Fellowship Statement of Faith & Volunteer Leader Covenant

In our mission to share Jesus with people in Northwest Arkansas, Fellowship Bible Church is purposed with producing and releasing spiritual leaders. Our hope is that our leaders are of highest character, know the Scriptures, and place the safety and hold the well-being of all of our ministry participants in the highest regard.

Volunteer leaders of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas (FBCNWA) represent the church in both their work and private lives. As a result, volunteer leadership must endeavor to live lives that exemplify Godly character and embody Fellowship's Mission, Vision, Statement of Faith and Leadership Covenant (see below). FBCNWA believes that the Bible is the ultimate authority in all matters, therefore the volunteers and leaders are expected to conduct themselves in alignment with the Scriptures and standards as defined by the Elders. FBCNWA reserves the constitutional right as a church to base leadership decisions on Biblical authority and ethical and doctrinal standards as established by the Elders of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas. Discuss issues of which you are uncertain with your staff leadership team.

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. 2 Cor 6:3

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Phil 1:27

FBCNWA – “Who We Are”

- **Ultimate Objective**- To glorify God
- **Mission**- To produce and release spiritual leaders who know and express the authentic Christ to Northwest Arkansas and the world
- **Vision**- To change the heart and soul of Northwest Arkansas and the world

FBCNWA Statement of Faith

THE SCRIPTURES... We believe that the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired of God, in whole and in part, error-free in the original writings and the supreme authority of faith and practice for the believer in Jesus Christ. We further believe that there is but one true interpretation of any Biblical passage and this is only found when one accurately applies the literal-grammatical-historical method of interpretation. (Psalm 119:160; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12)

GOD... We believe there is but one living and true God who is infinite, eternal and unchangeable. We further believe that God is one in essence while existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Though each person of the Godhead possesses precisely the same nature and attributes, each function differently in respect to God's purposes and dealings with man. (Deuteronomy 4:39; 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

THE FATHER... The first person of the Trinity orders and directs all things according to His own purpose pleasure and grace. The Father is sovereign in creation, providence and redemption. He has decreed all things that come to pass for His own glory. He graciously involves Himself in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (2 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 103:19; Matthew 6:9; John 5:19-24; Ephesians 1:2-6)

THE SON... The second person of the trinity is both the eternal Son of God and virgin-born Son of man. Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, surrendered nothing of His deity during His earthly life. Having led a sinless life, He satisfied the Father's justice concerning sin by His substitutionary death. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His physical ascension and His visible return to earth

to establish His earthly kingdom. (John 1:14-18; Acts 1:11; Romans 3:24-26; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:17-18; Revelation 20:11-15)

THE HOLY SPIRIT... The third person of the trinity executes the will of God in the world of men. It is the Holy Spirit who applies the salvation Jesus Christ secured through His death on the cross. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers the church to live a lifestyle pleasing to God, endowing it with special gifts, which equip believers to accomplish distinct ministries, planned beforehand by God the Father. (John 3:1-8; 15-16; 16:4-15; 1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18-21)

MAN... We believe that man was directly created in the image of God to enjoy His fellowship and to fulfill God's Will on earth. Man sinned by voluntary act of personal disobedience to the Will of God; as a result all men are spiritually dead and subject to the certainty of physical death. The fall of man was a non-repeatable historical fact, the effects of which are transmitted to all men, each of whom is born with a sinful nature and sins habitually in thought, word and deed. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; 3:3-4; Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-23; Ephesians 2:1-3)

SALVATION... We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as the only sufficient, substitutionary sacrifice. All who believe in Him are declared justified by the Father on the grounds of Jesus' death and resurrection. All who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by grace through faith have been regenerated by and baptized in the Holy Spirit. They become, thereby, the children of God forever and members of the one true church, the universal Body of Christ. This salvation will result in righteous living and good works as the believer submits his life to the control of the Holy Spirit who directs the life of the believer in harmony with the Word of God. (John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26; 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 10:10-12; 1 John 5:11-13)

THE CHURCH... We believe that all who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit belong to the one true universal church and are directed by the Scriptures to associate themselves in local, visible churches. The local church is the only scriptural representation of Christ's invisible church and consists only of regenerated believers. The local church is autonomous in its government and recognizes its own members for the biblical offices of elder and deacon. Two ordinances have been committed to the local church-baptism and the Lord's Supper. The purpose of the church is to lead men to Christ, mature them in the faith, and equip them for personal ministry. (Matthew 16:13-28; 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; 4:1-16; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:11-13; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Peter 5:1-3)

MARRIAGE... We believe that God has established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman and that all intimate sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or otherwise, is immoral and therefore sin (Genesis 2:24-25; Exodus 20:14, 17; Matthew 19:4-6, 9; Romans 1:18-31; I Corinthians 6:9-10, 15-20; Jude 7). Marriage ceremonies conducted on Fellowship Bible Church premises or by Fellowship Bible Church staff should represent the establishment of this covenant relationship. We believe that God created the human race male and female and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's birth gender is immoral and therefore sin. (Genesis 1:27; Deuteronomy 22:5)

FUTURE... We believe that prophetic scriptures teach the imminent, personal return of Jesus Christ. We believe that return will occur in a bodily, visible manner. (Matthew 24-25; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Revelation 20:1-4)

Leadership Responsibilities Covenant

As a leader at Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas, I prayerfully commit myself to:

- **Maturity** – to endeavor to be a maturing disciple of Christ, continually pursuing spiritual growth. (Colossians 2:6-7)
- **Ministry** – to discover and utilize personal spiritual gifts in order to influence and serve others within the church, the community and the world. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- **Care** – to take responsibility for personally meeting the needs of others within the church, the community and the world. (2 Corinthians 1:4-5)
- **Integrity** – to pursue a holy and pure life, representing Christ in a worthy manner. (I Peter 1:15)
- **Family** – to faithfully pursue God’s design for singlehood, marriage and parenting as revealed in the Scriptures and explained in FBCNWA’s Statement of Faith. (Matthew 19:4-6; Exodus 20:12,14, I Corinthians 7:25-38)
- **Participation** – to trust and support the mission, vision, strategies and philosophy of FBCNWA through active and consistent involvement. (Philippians 1:3-5)
- **Follow** – to submit to the authority of the elder’s leadership of FBCNWA. (Hebrews 13:17)
- **Support** – to support, through worshipful giving, the financial obligations and commitments of the church by practicing generosity and biblical stewardship. (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Volunteer Agreement for Children & Student Ministry Leaders

As a part of my qualification for leadership in the children's/student ministry of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas, I have completed the following safety/security/training steps:

- **Background screening**
 - Complete *Background Screening Form* complete with general information, two references (one character, one institutional) and authorization for background check with National Crime Search, Inc.
- **Interview with a Fellowship Staff member**
 - Share experiences, strengths, passion/vision
 - Involvement in Community Group or cell group
 - Frequency of worship attendance
 - Clarification of six month rule
 - Spiritual story – relationship with Christ
- **Training**
 - Completed safety/ministry training by specific ministry department including Ministry Guidelines, Statement of Faith, Leadership Responsibilities Covenant

- I have received, read and fully understand the documentation related to my leadership position and agree to commit to FBCNWA's Statement of Faith as well as abide by the standards set forth in the FBCNWA Volunteer Leader Agreement. In addition, I agree to conduct myself in a manner worthy of Christ as explained and outlined by the ministry in which I serve at Fellowship and the staff therein. I will work diligently to maintain and strengthen the Church and its members and will reflect the values of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas in word and example.**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

Congregation, Ministry area(s) and service time(s) in which you serve:
