

# The Covenant *between this church and the churches of the Fivefold Alliance*

J-2

**Serves:** Volume One, 2.1–2.4 and 13.1 · **Signed by:** the pastor and a church officer, and received for the Fivefold Alliance · **Kept by:** the church and the FCA Secretary · Replaces the earlier “Alliance Commitment”.

*“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow.” Ecclesiastes 4:9–10*

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Our church enters the Covenant of The Fivefold Church Alliance: a covenant among churches to live as the one Body we already are. We do not join an organization that sits over us. We make a promise to the churches beside us, and they make the same promise to us. It is written here so that there is never confusion about what was agreed.

## 1. WHAT OUR CHURCH GIVES

1. **Our faith in common.** We affirm the Statement of Faith (Appendix A).
2. **Our conduct.** Everyone we send in FCA service signs and keeps the Code of Conduct (Appendix B).
3. **One of our own.** We station a delegate at Headquarters at least three Sundays a month, unless our delegate has retired by bringing in a new member (4.1, 4.5).
4. **Our hour.** We hold our main Sunday service in our assigned service time block (9.2).
5. **Our reach.** We seek to add at least one new member to Headquarters each year, through evangelism only (Chapter 5).
6. **Our help.** We give when we can and receive when we must, without pride in the first or shame in the second (2.6).
7. **Our record.** We send our Church Growth Tracker (G-1) each season.

## 3. WHAT WE HOLD IN COMMON

- **Headquarters.** One church is the common place of the Covenant: declared under the leading of the Holy Spirit, not voted, and recognized by us in signing. There we gather, train and hold Council, and there what the churches share is gathered and sent. A place of service, not a throne: one vote, and no authority over us (Chapter 3).
- **The Delegate Council.** Our churches together, one vote each, decide where people, gifts and resources are sent (11.2).
- **The Chairperson and the officers.** The Chairperson presides over the Council and rules a decision out of order if it breaks this Covenant. The President and the officers carry out what the Council decides. None of them governs our church, and no person or church holds two of these seats (Chapter 12; Volume Two).

## 2. WHAT OUR CHURCH MAY ASK

1. **Training.** Free training at Headquarters for our people (8.4).
2. **Help in need.** Workers who teach, train and build, freely given. We will never be asked what we can pay (8.4).
3. **A voice.** One seat and one vote on the Delegate Council, the same as every church (11.1).
4. **A path.** If we are being helped, a clear way to the Restoration Mark, verified and presented publicly (Chapter 10).
5. **Care without a pastor.** If our pastor cannot act, help through the change under a written agreement, without our church being taken over (7.7).
6. **Our pastor’s place.** Nothing the Fivefold Alliance does in our church goes around our pastor (7.6).

## 4. WHAT NONE OF US MAY DO TO ANOTHER

No church, no officer and no Headquarters may:

- govern another church (2.1, 3.2);
- recruit another church’s members (5.1);
- pass money between churches, or sell help (8.4);
- take part in another church’s internal decisions (7.5);
- claim another church’s building or property (7.5);
- decide who is a minister in another church (15.2).

**What stays ours.** Our name, our leaders, our members, our decisions, our money and our property remain our own. **This Covenant asks no dues.** If the Delegate Council adopts the Financial Addendum, its terms are agreed and recorded separately.

## 5. HOW LONG

The Covenant is meant to last, because the Body lasts. A church that has been restored stays, to help the next. Our church may leave in peace at any time by giving thirty days’ written notice, keeps everything that is its own, and may apply to return (13.5).

Our delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Assigned block \_\_\_\_\_ Starting state, set by the Council \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. SIGNED

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Received for the Fivefold Alliance \_\_\_\_\_

Church officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ FCA Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received by vote of the Delegate Council on \_\_\_\_\_ Membership begins when the delegate is stationed, on \_\_\_\_\_