

## Membership Vows for Adults:

Jesus says in Matthew 10:32, "Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven." Romans 10:9 says, "if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

1. Do you confess that because of your sinfulness you abhor and humble yourself before God, and that you trust for salvation not in yourself, but in Jesus Christ alone?
2. Do you believe the Bible, consisting of the old and New Testaments, to be the Word of God, and its doctrine of salvation to be the perfect and only true doctrine of salvation?
3. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your sovereign Lord, and do you promise, in reliance on the grace of God, to serve him with all that is in you, to forsake the world, to mortify your flesh, and to lead a godly life?
4. Do you agree to submit in the Lord to the government of this church and, in case you should be found delinquent in doctrine or life, to heed its discipline?

## Membership Vows for Young Children:

Jesus says in Matthew 10:32, "Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven." Romans 10:9 says, "if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

1 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."

Q: DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD?

A: YES!

Romans 3:10 says, "There is none righteous, not even one."

Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

1 John 1:8 says, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Q: ARE YOU A SINNER IN NEED OF SALVATION?

A: YES!

In John 14:6 Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

Q: IS SALVATION ONLY FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST?

A: YES!

1 Peter 2:24 says about Jesus, "He himself bore our sins in

his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by his wounds you were healed.”

Q: DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS WAS PUNISHED FOR YOUR SINS WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS?

A: YES!

Romans 3:28 says, “we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.”

Q: DO YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN GOOD WORKS FOR SALVATION, OR IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE?

A: IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE!

Romans 3:31 says, “Do we nullify the law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the law.”

In John 14:15 Jesus says, “If you love me you will keep my commandments.”

Q: WITH GOD’S HELP, WILL YOU LOVE CHRIST BY LEADING A GODLY LIFE, TURNING FROM SIN AND OBEYING HIS LAW.

A: YES!

Galatians 6:1 says, “if anyone is caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness.”

Ephesians 5:21 says, “be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”

Q: MAY THE MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH HOLD YOU

ACCOUNTABLE TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE?

A: YES!

Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you?"

Q: WILL YOU OBEY THE ELDERS OF THIS CHURCH BY LIVING A GODLY LIFE?

A: YES!

## Baptismal Vows for Parents:

### THE INSTITUTION OF BAPTISM:

Water Baptism is the NT sign of the Abrahamic Covenant. In Gen. 17 God instituted circumcision as the sign and seal of the covenant, and indicated that its fulfillment would one day be marked by the covenant inclusion of all the nations. In Matt. 28 Jesus established baptism as the covenant sign to be given to all the nations now included, saying, "Make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

### THE NATURE OF BAPTISM:

Baptism symbolizes a number of things. (1) Union with Christ (Rom. 6). The word, "baptize," literally meaning, "to merge into union with something." (2) The forgiveness of sins. Just as water washes the body, Jesus Christ washes the soul (Tit. 3:5). (3) The baptism of the Holy Spirit, whom God poured out on the church at the dawn of the NT age (Acts 2). (4) A warning of judgment for those who lack repentance and faith. As sure as the ungodly were drowned in the baptisms of the flood and the Red Sea, all who lack faith in Jesus Christ will fall under God's wrath forever (1 Cor. 10:1-2; 1 Pet. 3:19-22).

### THE GROUND OF INFANT BAPTISM:

In Gen. 17 God said to Abraham that the covenant included him and his children, requiring all the males in the covenant household to be circumcised. The NT continues that covenant. The first verse of the first chapter of the first book of the NT says, "The record of the genealogy of Jesus... the son of Abraham...." Jesus confirmed the continuation of including children in the covenant when he said, "the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mk. 10:14). Likewise, Peter preached the sermon after Pentecost saying, "Repent, each of you and be baptized.... For the promise is for you and your children..." (Acts 2:38,39). From there on it was the standard missionary practice to baptize all the members of an entire household (Acts 16:31; 1 Cor. 1:16). Over twenty years after Jesus established the NT church (and in conformity with the covenant practice of antiquity) it was assumed that the children of even just one believer were included in the holy covenant (1 Cor. 7:14). While the Bible teaches that adults who convert to Christianity must first show evidence of saving faith before receiving the covenant sign, it does not require this of children born to believers. Rather, the Biblical pattern is just the opposite. The covenant sign, in the case of children, must precede evidence of saving faith. This does not mean they are saved and made members of the invisible church, nor does water baptism save them. Rather, it identifies them as members of the visible church in which believers and unbelievers coexist.

## BAPTISMAL VOWS FOR PARENTS:

1. Do you acknowledge that, although \_\_\_\_\_ was conceived and born in sin and therefore subject to condemnation, he/she is, nevertheless, set apart from the world by Christ as a member of the visible church, and therefore ought to be baptized?

2. Do you promise to instruct \_\_\_\_\_ in the principles of our holy religion as revealed in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and as summarized in the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of this Church; and do you promise to pray with and for \_\_\_\_\_, to set an example of piety and godliness before him/her, and to endeavor by all the means of God's appointment to bring him/her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

PRAYER:

BAPTISM:

PRAYER:

## ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION:

Congregation, I present to you \_\_\_\_\_. Guard him as your son/daughter and brother/Christ in Christ. "Unless you are converted and become like children you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 18:3). "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all" (Mk. 10:15). "Whoever causes one of these

little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea" (Mk. 9:42). This child is "holy" (1 Cor. 7:14).

## Ordination Vows for Ministers and Congregations:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?
3. Do you approve of the government, discipline, and worship of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church?
4. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
5. Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to seek the office of the holy ministry from love to God and a sincere desire to promote his glory in the gospel of his Son?
6. Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in maintaining the truths of the gospel and the purity, the peace, and the unity of the church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise unto you on that account?
7. Do you promise to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all private and personal duties which become you as a Christian and a minister of the gospel, as well as in all the duties of your office, endeavoring to adorn the profession of the gospel by your life, and walking with exemplary piety before the flock over which God shall make you overseer?

8. Are you now willing to take the charge of this congregation, in agreement with your declaration when you accepted their call? And do you promise to discharge the duties of a pastor to them as God shall give you strength?

The candidate having answered these questions in the affirmative, the moderator shall propose to the people the following questions, to which they shall answer in the affirmative by holding up their right hands:

1. Do you, the people of this congregation, continue to profess your readiness to receive \_\_\_\_\_, whom you have called to be your minister?

2. Do you promise to receive the word of truth from his mouth with meekness and love, and to submit to him in the due exercise of discipline?

3. Do you promise to encourage him in his arduous labor and to assist his endeavors for your instruction and spiritual edification?

4. And do you promise to continue to him, while he is your pastor, that worldly maintenance which you have promised, and whatever else you may see needful for the honor of religion and his comfort among you?

## Ordination Vows for Elders, Deacons, and Congregations:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?
3. Do you approve of the government, discipline, and worship of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church?
4. Do you promise to seek the purity, the peace, and the unity of the church?
5. Do you accept the office of ruling elder (or deacon) in this congregation and promise, in reliance on the grace of God, faithfully to perform all the duties thereof?

When each of these questions has been answered in the affirmative, the minister shall address to the members of the congregation the following question:

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive this brother as a ruling elder (or deacon), and do you promise to yield him all that honor, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord, to which his office, according to the Word of God and the constitution of this Church, entitles

him?