

1.0 OUR COVENANT

We believe we are God's church, a chosen people, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, and a People belonging to God, (I Peter 2:9). We believe that we are led by God's Holy Spirit to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. After believing we are baptized in the name of God the Father and of God the Son and of God the Holy Spirit. And so, as one body of Christ, we make this covenant before God and all people:

- (i) We will worship God in truth and Spirit. We will bear witness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by obeying His command, "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded"... (Matt. 28:19-22). We will walk together in Christ's love with the help of the Holy Spirit. We will work together for the progress of the church, in the knowledge of the Bible cleansing and power, we will support her success and Spirituality. We will respect all worship services and keep the order, discipline and teachings of the church.
- (ii) We will joyfully give God our gifts, tithes and offerings. We will give financial support to the Pastors and other Church workers, and will pay all expenses of the church. We will endeavor to help those in need. We will share in evangelizing the world with the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ
- (iii) When alone, we will take time every day to read the Bible and to pray. We will teach our children God's Word. We will endeavor to lead our family, friends and neighbors to know and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- (iv) When we are before the world, we will show good conduct before other people. We will show justice in our deeds. We will avoid rumors, talking evil about others and being angry.

We will depend on the Holy Spirit as the source of our joy, not alcoholic drinks, drugs and substance of abuse or other things of the world. We will work hard in every way to help expand God's kingdom.

(v) We will help one another in brotherly love. We will pray for each other. We shall stand together in sickness and other troubles, and we will show our love in word and deed. In times of misunderstandings, we will be ready to reconcile with each other according to the teachings of our Lord.

(vi) When we leave KWBC, we will join another church where we will be led by God's Word. We will continue to live in our covenant with God and His people in the new locality.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

2.1 How to become a member

2.1.1 General Provisions

A person will be eligible for membership if they fulfill the following requirements:

- (i) accepts Jesus Christ and confesses Him as Lord and Savior;
- (ii) accepts and gets baptized by immersion after the approval of the church;
- (iii) confirms their understanding of the meaning of Christianity and Christian responsibility by completing at least the basic discipleship program e.g. growing in Christ;
- (iv) completes and submits a membership application form to the Pastor or Deacon, who should then take responsibility to share the details with Pastors and Deacons board for approval and membership certificate preparation and issue;
- (v) agrees and commits to become an active member: participate in church meetings, bible studies, home cells and fellowships; accept to take up responsibilities as per identified gifting;
- (vi) accepts and takes responsibility to support the church morally and financially

2.1.2 A New Convert

Apart from fulfilling the conditions in 2.1 above, they should be actively involved in studying the word of God through discipleship classes and home cell fellowships.

2.1.3 Christians from other churches

A Christian from a different church may become a member of KWBC after fulfilling the following requirements:

- (i) confirms their faith in Christ and understanding of the responsibility of a Christian;
- (ii) confirms that they have been baptized by immersion in obedience to Christ's command, that is, after professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
- (iii) successfully completes an observation and active follow up period with the Pastor or Deacon, for at least 6 months; this may involve joining a discipleship class, Baptism class or such other study that the Pastor or Deacon may prescribe.

2.1.4 A member of another Baptist Church

A member of another Baptist church may be accorded membership based on a letter of recommendation from the church they previously worshiped at and after fulfilling an observation and active follow up period of at least 3 months.

2.2 The responsibility of each member.

- (i) To be faithful in attending worship services, bible studies, fellowships and church meetings.
- (ii) To tithe faithfully and cheerfully give offerings.
- (iii) To grow by studying and living in God's Word, praying in faith and fellowshiping with other believers.
- (iv) To witness to the lost, help lead them to Christ, bring them to Church and help in following up their growth in the faith.
- (v) To take care of the Sanctuary, all other church assets and grounds.
- (vi) To help others especially those in need (Sick, Hungry, bereaved).

2.3 Privileges of a member

A register of members shall be kept by the church secretary indicating current membership, those who have left the church and those who have died.

- (i) A member is entitled to 1 vote during any church business meeting.
- (ii) A member is entitled to participate in all church activities
- (iii) A member is entitled to fellowship, Pastoral care and support when in need especially when sick and/or bereaved by a next of kin. The church financial support in bereavement,

wedding and other critical needs of a member and next of kin shall be approved by the Church Council and administered by the Pastors and Deacons Board.

- (iv) Sunday school children and CBN members shall be treated as committed attendants of the church and will be accorded privileges of a member on the basis of the membership of their parents or guardians or on their own merit, until they reach maturity age (18 years). A register shall be kept by the respective departmental/ministry leaders.
- (v) Being registered as a member does not guarantee all the above in 2.3. The member should faithfully comply with the provisions of 2.2 and when in a situation requiring the intervention/support of the church, they or their Next of Kin should notify their Fellowship Leader, Deacon and/or Pastor regarding their matter in good time.

2.4 Misconduct/bad behavior on the part of a member

What constitutes misconduct or inappropriate behavior requiring disciplinary measures to be taken against a member shall be as duly provided in the Scripture.

- a) When a member acts contrary to the rules of the church and the teaching of the Bible, they shall be counseled by the Pastor, or a Deacon. If one accepts the mistake they have done, they shall repent and then continue to be a member with full privileges.
- b) Should a member continue to go against the teachings of the Bible, the church shall discipline them by either:
 - (i) Suspension until the issue(s) in question is ~~(is)~~ set right to the satisfaction of the Church leadership. During the period of suspension, close follow up will be done by the Pastor or Deacon, and a report for re-instatement made to the Pastors & Deacons Board. Suspension letter shall be done by the Pastor, and a letter for re-instatement after approval by the Pastors & Deacons Board shall also be done by the Pastor. A suspended member may attend worship services but will not be allowed to serve in any church ministry, or participate in Holy Communion.
 - (ii) Expulsion may take place where the gravity of the matter dictates so. All the steps prescribed will be taken according to biblical teaching (Matt. 18:15-17; Tits 3:1-11; I Cor. 5:1-5). A member who has been expelled will not be welcome even for Worship services. However, the leadership will apply maximum restraint as “Vengeance is mine”, so says the Lord.

- c) The procedure for the discipline which could result in suspension or expulsion is as follows.
 - (i) The Pastor shall try to counsel with and help the member to know their errors, repent and follow Christ.
 - (ii) If this is not successful, the Pastor shall take two or three deacons and they will try again.
 - (iii) If this is not successful, the matter shall be brought to the Deacons & Pastors Board for a final decision. The decision of the Pastors and Deacons board shall be communicated to the Church Council at the earliest opportunity, for record and awareness.

2.5 Loss of membership other than excommunication

A member shall be deemed to have lost church membership where;

- (i) The member expressly puts it to the Pastors and Deacons' Board that he is withdrawing from the church's membership.
- (ii) It is implied from the member's conduct that they are no longer part of the congregation; this entails non-fulfilment of clause 2.2 of this constitution and being inactive in any church activities for one year without any justification.
- (iii) In both scenarios 2.5 (i) and (ii) above, the information shall be communicated to the church secretary to update the church membership register.

2.6 Restoration of Membership

A member can have their membership restored when and if;

- (i) The disciplined member is remorseful and consistent in fellowship and the church is convinced that they have repented and corrected the misconduct that caused them to be suspended or expelled.
- (ii) The member who expressly withdrew their membership re-applies to have their membership restored; and
- (iii) The member who loses membership by the presumption of their absence expressly re-applies to have their membership restored.
- (iv) The restoration in 2.6(i) – (ii) above shall be done on the recommendation of the Pastors and Deacons Board with the approval of the Church Council.