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Equipping, Encouraging and Uniting the Diverse Body of Christ in New England

## **Vision New England Association Membership Covenant**

### **What we affirm as members of Vision New England**

In becoming a member of the Vision New England Association, I join with diverse followers of Jesus to unite, equip and encourage the body of Christ, strengthening local churches and advancing the kingdom of God in New England as we do justice, love mercy, walk humbly and make disciples.

### **We stand with all Vision New England members in affirming these core beliefs:**

#### **The Cross**

We proclaim the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Authority of Scripture**

We submit to the Bible as God's authoritative word.

#### **New Life in Christ**

We believe in the saving work of Christ, die to the old self, and commit to a new life in Christ.

#### **Building God's Kingdom**

We actively build the Kingdom of God when we go make disciples, do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before God.

### **Further, we affirm these essential aspects of our unity:**

#### **Experience**

We welcome, as Christian brothers and sisters, all who experience the grace of new birth, bringing them to that fear and knowledge of God which is expressed in a life of obedience to His word.

#### **Encouragement**

We recognize our Christian duty of trust and mutual encouragement to all who serve Christ as Lord, not least to those who conscientiously prefer not to be identified with the same churches, alliances or councils as ourselves.

#### **Respect**

We respect the diversity of culture, experience and doctrinal understanding that God grants to His people, and acknowledge that some differences over issues not essential to salvation may well remain until the end of time.



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### **Relationship**

We urge all Christians to pray as Christ prayed, that we may be one in the Father and the Son, and so by the Spirit promote personal relationships of love, peace and fellowship within the Body of Christ, His universal Church.

### **Truth**

We encourage all Christians earnestly to contend for biblical truth, since only as we are open to learn from others and yield fuller obedience to the truth will we be drawn closer to Christ and to each other.

### **Humility**

We call on each other, when speaking or writing of those issues of faith or practice that divide us, to acknowledge our own failings and the possibility that we ourselves may be mistaken, avoiding personal hostility and abuse, and speaking the truth in love and gentleness.

### **Charity**

We owe it to each other, in making public comment on the alleged statements of our fellow Christians, first to confer directly with them and to establish what was actually intended. Then to commend what we can, to weigh the proportional significance of what we perceive to be in error, and to put a charitable construction on what is doubtful, expressing all with courtesy, humility and graciousness.

### **Mission**

We rejoice in the spread of the Gospel across the world and urge all Christians to commit themselves to this task, avoiding unnecessary competition and co-operating, wherever possible, in the completion of Christ's kingdom of peace, justice and holiness, to the glory of the one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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Organization Name

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Primary Contact Signature

Date