

# The Church Covenant of 1780

We, whose names are hereunder written, usually assembling for Divine Worship at the Meeting House in St. Peter-le-Bailey, in the City of Oxford, being Protestant Dissenters from the Church of England, receiving the Books of the Old and New Testament as the Word of GOD and the only infallible external rule of our religion, faith, and practice; having solemnly devoted ourselves first to the LORD, and professed to each other our repentance towards GOD, faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and the hope of eternal life through His atoning Blood and sanctifying Spirit, to our mutual satisfaction:

Do hereby solemnly covenant and agree to receive one another in the peculiar fellowship, form, and order of the Church of JESUS CHRIST; mutually granting to each other an equal right and title to, and interest in, all the privileges and emoluments of this our sacred confederation, and promising conscientiously to perform all the respective duties thence arising.

And, particularly, we promise and oblige ourselves (nothing extraordinary preventing) to meet together at all appointed seasons at His Table in devout remembrance of His sufferings and Death; and on the LORD's Days (Providence permitting) and on all other occasional opportunities, to attend the Public Worship of GOD in prayers and praises, and hearing His Holy Word.

And also promise to watch over and admonish one another, as occasion requires, in the spirit of Christian love and meekness, and to live and walk together in unity and peace and the fear of GOD, according to His Word.

We also further promise and declare, that we will, so far as we conscientiously can, consent to and obey all such rules and resolutions of good order and discipline as the majority of the Church shall agree upon and regularly appoint.

And whereas some of us do verily believe that the sprinkling of the infant children of believing parents in the name of the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT, is true Christian Baptism; and others of us do believe that true Christian Baptism is that which is administered to adults upon the profession of their repentance, faith, and experience of the grace of GOD, by Immersion in the Name of the Sacred Three; yet, notwithstanding this difference of sentiment, we promise and agree to receive one another into the same affection and love; and for this, among other many reasons: because we can find no warrant in the Word of GOD to make such difference of sentiment any bar to Communion at the LORD's Table in particular, or to Church fellowship in general; and because the LORD JESUS receiving and owning them on both sides of the question, we think we ought to do so too.

We also further declare that we are willing and ready to admit to our Church fellowship and communion all that are desirous of it and will give us such an account of their Christian faith and hope as shall satisfy us that they are partakers of the saving grace of GOD, and that their conversation in the world is such as becomes the Gospel, notwithstanding any difference of opinion as to the subject and mode of Baptism; and also all such as are recommended to us from any of the Churches of different denominations on that head as sincere Christians in full communion with them.

We therefore denominate ourselves a PROTESTANT CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST, desirous to live in Christian peace and love with all men, and to hold the Communion of Saints with all Protestant Churches and such as love our LORD JESUS CHRIST in sincerity.

In testimony of these things, and in the sincerity of our hearts, we have, as in the presence of the Eternal GOD, and of our brethren in the Ministry now attending with us in our solemn meeting for this purpose and to assist us with their advice and prayers, set our respective names, this sixteenth day of November, in the year of OUR LORD One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty.

MATTHEW BANBURY  
THOMAS PLATER  
E. H. ROOKE  
SUSANNA WILLIAMS  
SUSANNA NEWMAN  
THOMAS PASCO

MARY PLATER

THOS. NEWMAN  
JOHN BARTLETT  
JANE BARTLETT  
ELIZABETH COXETER  
M. PECK  
ELIZABETH PECK

[Witnessed by the Ministers present:-]

D. TURNER, Abingdon  
S. BROWNE, Henley  
JOHN LAKE, Abingdon

T. DUNSCOMBE, Coate  
HUGH GILES, Chenies  
WM. MILLER, Oxford