

CHURCH AFFILIATION AGREEMENT INSTRUCTION CHECKLIST

Thank you for your desire to become an affiliated church with Open Bible Churches. We will work closely with you in this quest. Please follow these instructions as you complete and return the Church Affiliation Agreement.

Check as Completed

- A. Please complete the Church Affiliation Agreement, sign where indicated, and send it with requested documents to your regional executive director. The agreement must be approved by the regional and national boards.
- B. The church must be incorporated in the state in which it resides, according to the laws of that state. Although the words, "Open Bible," are preferred as part of the church's name, they are not required. However, a statement in the church's Articles of Incorporation declaring affiliation with Open Bible is required. Your Articles of Incorporation can be amended to include the sentence, "[Name of church] is affiliated with Open Bible Churches, an Iowa 501(c)(3) religious and educational corporation."
- C. Enclose a copy of the church's Articles of Incorporation (either original or amended) and the Secretary of State's acknowledgement of the church's incorporation.
- D. All churches must have a Federal Employer Identification Number obtained prior to submitting this application. This number can be obtained online at www.irs.org by downloading form SS4 and following the instructions for obtaining the number either by phone or fax. Upon approval for affiliation, your church will be included as a federal, tax-exempt organization and will receive a federal group exemption number from Open Bible Churches. Therefore the church need not go through the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) corporation on its own.
- E. Enclose a copy of the church's bylaws for approval.
- F. If you have adopted a Statement of Faith other than Open Bible Churches' Statement of Faith, enclose a copy for approval.
- G. Enclose a completed and signed Pastoral Covenant of Relationship.
- H. Enclose an application fee of \$50.00 payable to your region.

You are welcome to contact your regional executive director concerning any questions. It is our pleasure to work with you.

CHURCH AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

with OPEN BIBLE CHURCHES

This affiliation agreement between individual churches and Open Bible Churches is a relational covenant. It is a bonding of hearts and an alignment of purpose and passion. The covenant is marked by a confirming witness from the Holy Spirit among pastor, church board, church membership, and regional and national leadership. It is entered into with the solemn recognition God birthed the relationship. For that reason, the relationship should be neither lightly undertaken nor lightly severed by the church or the Association. It is a partnership dedicated to more effectively impacting the harvest than can be accomplished alone.

This partnership is biblically illustrated in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT), "Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble. ...A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."

We, the partners in covenant, confirm we have read and agree to abide by the provisions, procedures, and regulations in the Open Bible Manual. We affirm our individual contributions to this relationship with these commitments:

THE CHURCH AGREES TO:

- Make disciples in obedience to the Great Commission;
- Pray for Open Bible Churches and its ministries;
- Adopt and abide by bylaws and regulations consistent with the provisions, procedures, and regulations of the Open Bible Manual;
- Welcome representatives of Open Bible Churches to minister, share about ministries, and build relationship with members of the church;
- Require its pastors to enter into the pastoral covenant with Open Bible Churches prior to assuming leadership at the church;
- Participate in and support regional and national ministries and events; and
- Partner with the region in periodic, church-health assessments.

OPEN BIBLE CHURCHES AGREES TO:

- Provide a spiritual covering for the church;
- Challenge the church to make disciples in obedience to the Great Commission;
- Lovingly hold the church accountable to abide by its bylaws and regulations and the Open Bible Manual;
- Pray for the church and the fulfillment of its mission;
- Establish standards for obtaining and maintaining ministerial credentials;
- Encourage, supervise, train, and provide fellowship for the pastors of the church;
- Provide opportunities for participation in Open Bible ministries; and
- Provide periodic, church-health assessments.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Church's Name _____
2. Church's Address _____
City _____, State _____ Zip _____ - _____ E-mail _____
Web page _____ Phone _____
3. Federal Employer Identification Number _____



(Continued on reverse side)

PASTORAL COVENANT OF RELATIONSHIP

with OPEN BIBLE CHURCHES

The Pastoral Covenant of Relationship between pastors and Open Bible Churches is a partnership marked by a bonding of hearts and an alignment of purpose and passion – a God-initiated relationship. A covenant relationship means the pastor and Open Bible Churches are committed to advancing God's Kingdom together in mutual and loving commitment – a partnership dedicated to more effectively impacting the harvest than can be accomplished alone. The Pastoral Covenant of Relationship flows from and confirms a witness from the Holy Spirit among pastor, church board, church membership, and regional and national leadership – a partnership entered into with the solemn recognition God initiated the relationship. For that reason, the relationship should be neither lightly undertaken nor lightly severed by the pastor, church, or Open Bible Churches. Application for, approval, and acceptance of an Open Bible ministerial credential are mutual statements of commitment to covenant relationship.

A model for covenant relationship is described in Philippians 2:1-6 (NLT).

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose. Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.

In the spirit of partnership for the harvest, this Pastoral Covenant of Relationship is entered into by Open Bible Churches, and _____, on the _____ day of _____, 20_____: We, the partners in covenant, affirm our individual contributions to this relationship with these commitments:

AS SENIOR PASTOR AT AN OPEN BIBLE CHURCH I WILL:

- Abide by and support the Church Affiliation Agreement between the church and the Open Bible Churches;
- Abide by the Open Bible Manual;
- Teach doctrine consistent with the Open Bible Statement of Faith;
- Participate spiritually, physically, and financially with all ministries of Open Bible as defined in the Open Bible Manual;
- Pray for fulfillment of the mission of Open Bible Churches and for its leadership;
- Welcome representatives of Open Bible Churches to minister, share about ministries, and build relationship with members of the church;
- Complete an annual, church tracking report; and
- Partner with the region in periodic, church health assessments.

(Continued on reverse side)



OPEN BIBLE CHURCHES WILL:

- Provide a spiritual covering for the pastor;
- Pray for the pastor, family, and pastoral effectiveness;
- Encourage, supervise, and train the pastor;
- Challenge the pastor to make disciples in obedience to the Great Commission;
- Lovingly hold the pastor accountable to abide by the church's bylaws and regulations and the Open Bible Manual;
- Establish standards for obtaining and maintaining ministerial credentials;
- Provide opportunities for ministerial fellowship; and
- Partner with pastors in performing periodic, church health assessments.

Senior Pastor

Date: _____

Officer of Open Bible Churches

Date: _____