



**MEMBERSHIP**  
CURRICULUM



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## **I. Seoul International Baptist Church: A History**

### *WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM...*

Seoul International Baptist Church (SIBC) traces its beginnings to an English-speaking congregation of Seoul Memorial Church that began in 1971. Initially, Southern Baptist missionaries conducted the service for U.S. military personnel, civilians, missionaries and their children. Rev. James Swendenburg (deceased) was the first pastor, and he and his wife, Joyce, served the church from January 1972 to June 1974. Then in 1973, the Foreign Mission Board (FMB; now the International Mission Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention voted to release up to \$30,000 in capital funds from the 1972 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to allow SIBC to purchase land on Yeouido Island in Seoul. Again, in 1974, the FMB released an additional \$20,000 in Lottie Moon funds to assist SIBC.

In February 1975, the FMB appointed Rev. and Mrs. Roland Leath of Shelby, North Carolina to serve in an interim pastoral ministry at SIBC. Rev. Leath served in this capacity until June 1976, when Rev. Cloyes Starnes assumed the pastorate, serving first as assistant pastor and then as senior pastor. During Rev. Starnes pastorate, SIBC completed construction of its facilities on Yeouido, next door to Yeouido Baptist Church. Rev. Starnes and his wife, Mary Jo, served the church until January 1980. Throughout the 1970s into the mid-1980s, the FMB also appointed several journeymen to serve in SIBC youth work. They included Karen Ballard, appointed in 1975; Mary Lyn Ward, appointed in 1977; Mark Okazaki, appointed in 1979; Sherry McGee, appointed in 1981; Jeff Waldo, appointed in 1984 and Gary Hartman, appointed in 1986.

In 1981, Rev. Jack Green and his wife, Mary Edna came to SIBC. During Rev. Green's tenure the church added to the educational building on Yeouido using Lottie Moon funds. Yeouido Baptist Church also paid SIBC for a 99-year lease on the parking lot property and the church used those funds to construct a new worship center with fellowship and teaching space.

In October 1983, the FMB authorized Dr. and Mrs. William C. Link, Jr., of Liberty, Missouri, to serve as extended-term volunteers in South Korea. Dr. Link assumed the pastorate of SIBC in December 1983 for a one-year term while the Greens were on furlough.

Also, during Rev. Green's 12-year tenure, SIBC became involved in a prison ministry through the help of a Korean pharmacist. The pharmacist, whose name has been lost to history, disciplined converts from services that Rev. Green preached three times a year in the juvenile prison at Incheon. According to Rev. Green, the church baptized 1,028 young men during the ten years of this ministry. Rev. Green also recalled that he once baptized 132 men in one prison baptismal service.

Rev. Green and the church leadership dubbed SIBC, "a mission church on a mission field." As a result, the church donated a large portion of its weekly receipts to the Home Mission Board of the Korean Baptist Convention. They also sponsored the start of ten new Korean churches and paid for their start-up expenses. The church also partnered with the blind church in Seoul, bought them a piano and helped them build a new facility.

Bill Colston and his wife, Gerry, succeeded Rev. Green and served the church from 1992 until September 2001. Back in June 1996, the FMB authorized the Korea Baptist Mission to sell the SIBC property located on Yeouido. The property, which was originally purchased in March 1975 for \$39,627, had an estimated value of \$4 million. The FMB authorized that funds from the sale be used to relocate SIBC, mission office facilities and other Korea Baptist ministries currently occupying the Yeouido address.

In November 2001, Rev. Tim Swihart and his wife, Mari, relocated from Busan, South Korea to lead SIBC. Under Rev. Swihart's leadership the church grew in numbers and ministries and added vibrant men, women, children and prayer ministries. The church also renewed its mission emphasis, as members took trips to Bangladesh, China, Tibet, and Thailand.

In the mid-2000s, the International Missions Board (formerly FMB) recognized that most of its international churches had matured to the point

that it was no longer necessary to provide missionary pastors and financial support. As a result, when the Swiharts completed their term in June 2007, the church formed a search committee and began searching to call their first pastor. During this process, the church invited Rev. Jack Peters to serve as interim pastor which he did with his wife, Debra, from June 2007 to June 2008.

In early 2008, SIBC called Dr. Dan Armistead from Cummings, Georgia. He and his wife, Sherri arrived in Seoul in June of that year. During the interim period and early in Dr. Armistead's tenure, the church committed to planting English-speaking churches in and around Seoul. SIBC has since planted International Christian Fellowship in Yeonhui-dong with the intent of reaching expat's with ties to Seoul Foreign School.

In addition, the church voted in 2009 to join the Hawaii-Pacific Baptist Convention to solidify its Southern Baptist identity and to partner with churches in that association to take the Gospel throughout the Asia-Pacific Region. The church continues its support of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program, the exclusive source of support for missionaries serving through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. The church also supports a number of independent mission endeavors in India, Thailand, and China.

Back in 1980, Rev. Green cast a vision for SIBC as "a mission church on a mission field." Although the areas of emphasis may have changed throughout the years, SIBC continues working toward that vision as they share the Gospel throughout Seoul and to the ends of the earth.

Ann Lovell – October, 2010

## II. Seoul International Baptist Church Today

*WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING: OUR VISION AND VALUES...*

In the Gospel of Mark, a religious leader comes to Jesus with a question, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” To which Jesus replied, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:28-31 ESV).<sup>1</sup> This teaching of Jesus has come to be known as “The Great Commandment” and it is essentially the church’s call to a life of reverent worship and loving fellowship.

Later, before his ascension to sit at the right hand of the God the Father, he gave his disciples the following commission, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20). In Acts also, we learn that Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). This teaching of Jesus has come to be known as “The Great Commission.” This is Jesus’ call to the church to be a community on mission.

Taken together therefore, Jesus calls his disciples to a life of worship, fellowship, and mission, all of which is undergirded by a foundation built on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is to say, our worship, our fellowship and our mission are all based on the one truth that Jesus is in fact who he claimed to be, the Son of God, and who according to the Apostle Paul, “died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, was buried, and raised on the

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<sup>1</sup> All Bible translations, unless noted otherwise are from the *English Standard Version*, ESV (Wheaton: Crossway Bibles), 2001.

third day in accordance with the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Knowing this, we at SIBC pursue a communal life characterized by worship, fellowship, and mission that is grounded in the gospel. Each of these four aspects is expanded upon below.

### ***A. Connecting with Christ: Worship (Rom 12-15)***

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul calls the members of the church to offer their body/bodies (there is both a corporate and individual aspect here), as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God as their spiritual worship (Rom 12:1). The point here is that we, as a community/person are to offer our whole self to God: our heart, soul, mind and strength; our blood, sweat, and tears; our work, rest, and play. Every aspect of our life is to be offered to Christ as an act of reverent worship, both corporately and individually.

As Paul continues, it becomes clear that for Paul, worship, our connecting with Christ, is more than simply singing songs about Jesus on a Sunday. On the contrary, worship is a 24/7 way of living. Whether we realize it or not, every day, we offer our body as a living sacrifice to someone or to something. True worship therefore means that ***everything*** we do – in our work, rest, and play – must be done in reverence and deference to Christ.

Paul then fleshes out what it means to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. In other words, the following practices are ways by which we can worship God: using your spiritual gifts to bless the city and the church (12:3-8); loving with integrity, honoring one another, working hard, blessing our enemies, weeping with those who mourn, rejoicing with those who rejoice (12:9-21); submitting to the government authorities (13:1-7); honoring my neighbor rather than pursuing petty legalisms (14:1-12); relinquishing my freedom for the sake of my neighbor (14:13-23); and finally, pursuing unity in our diversity (15:1-7). All of these and more are practical ways in which we offer our bodies to God in worship.

## **B. Connecting in Fellowship: Community (1 Thes 2:1-8 and Gal 6:1-5)**

The Christian life is to be lived in community. Our example is that of Jesus who as he began to minister, called to himself twelve men that they might be with him and that they might be sent out (Mark 3). From this community, we gain strength for the mission by being able to hold one another to account, and by bearing one another's burdens.

In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul speaks of his experience with the church and his ministry with them:

but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us (1 Thes 2:4-8).

Paul lived a life of integrity and authenticity in the context of community. Amazingly, he was not simply content to discharge the Good News but also to **share life**. The only way people will know that we live lives of integrity and authenticity is if they see us in action on a regular basis. If we are not sharing our life with one another, how can we possibly say that we are even beginning to love one another? More importantly, it is this practice of life together that gives us the opportunity and privilege to speak into one another's life as Paul instructs the Galatians:

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load (Gal 6:1-5).

At SIBC we desire this kind of intimacy. An intimacy that gives permission to call each other to account to live a life worthy of the Gospel

and an intimacy that desires to bear one another's burdens in love. In doing this, we give witness to the love of Christ (John 13:35) and gain strength for our mission.

### **C. *Connecting to Culture: Mission (Acts 17)***

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells the story of a dishonest manager and commends him for being wise in worldly affairs. To be clear, Jesus does not condone his dishonesty, but condones his shrewdness. Jesus draws the conclusion, "The sons of this world are shrewder in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light" (Luke 16:8b). At SIBC we desire to be wise in our preaching of the gospel and with the people whom we serve.

Like Paul in Acts 17, we desire to show how the Gospel sheds light on our culture today, not *making* it relevant, but rather *showing* its relevance. But we don't just desire to preach the Gospel, we desire the good of our city. God, through the prophet Jeremiah, expresses our desire in the best possible fashion:

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ***But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare***" (Jeremiah 29:4-7).

As a church, we neither shun culture completely nor embrace it completely. Rather, our mission is to faithfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus and in doing so seek the welfare of the city. We see ourselves as a "city within the city" that through the gospel seeks to bring truth, love, and peace to everyone whom we encounter.

### **D. *The Centrality of the Gospel: Identity, Worship, Fellowship, and Mission (1 Cor 15 and 1 Pet 2)***

For Paul, the gospel (Christ crucified for sin and resurrected for new life) is everything. It is the very foundation of his identity, his worship, his

fellowship, and his mission. It was the gospel that gave him a humble/confident sense of self; it was the gospel that gave him reason to worship; it was the gospel that was the foundation of the church, and it was the gospel that gave him hope and courage in the face of adversity in his God-given mission.

An identity based on the Gospel is one that understands itself through the lens of the person and work of Christ, particularly with regard to his crucifixion and resurrection. For example, Paul, in the opening chapter of his first letter to the perverted Corinthian church, calls them sanctified (v. 2) and guiltless (v. 8). Knowing that we are sanctified and guiltless through Christ's life, death, and resurrection means we are no longer chasing the approval of God to win his favor. Rather, we are living life based upon his favor that has been given to us in Jesus. From this gospel identity we are empowered to live lives of worship, community, and mission. This is something that the Apostle Peter marveled at and never quite got over:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession (**our identity**), that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (**our mission**). Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people (**our community**); once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation (**our worship**) (1 Peter 2:9-12).

### III. Statement of Faith and Biblical Doctrine

#### *What We Believe . . .*

In addition to the Baptist Faith and Message with which we agree (details of which can be found at [www.sbc.net/bfm/bfm2000.asp](http://www.sbc.net/bfm/bfm2000.asp)), we also believe that membership, fellowship, and active involvement in SIBC should focus on those things considered essential to the faith.

For this reason, we reference two other historic documents: The Apostles Creed (see below) and The Lausanne Covenant ([www.lausanne.org/covenant](http://www.lausanne.org/covenant)). Both of these documents have been used to identify essentials of the faith, and promote Christian unity among evangelicals around the world. While beliefs distinctive to Baptists will not be ignored in the teaching ministry of Seoul International Baptist Church, the emphasis will always be on those essential doctrines that unify evangelical believers as given below:

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic [universal] Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **IV. Membership at SIBC**

### *WHY MEMBERSHIP AND WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE...*

#### **A. Why Membership?**

There are several reasons we take membership at SIBC seriously:

- Seoul International Baptist Church is a family, adopted by God (Gal. 4:6-7; Eph. 1:5). We care for each other, pray for each other, and serve together. If you're already a Christian, and in some form of SIBC community; if you're already giving of your finances and your time, then you're already fulfilling some functions of a member. That said; we do believe membership matters. It is a tangible commitment to the local church. It is your testimony that you will be no less committed to Christ and His kingdom in Seoul than anywhere else God may lead you to live (Matthew 6:33).
- Genesis 2:18 reminds us that it is not good for man to be alone. God calls us through Scripture into a body, a family, a household. That is to say, being a Christian is not a solo effort. Jesus works through the church (Eph. 2:10), the church is Jesus' body (1 Cor. 12:27), and apart from Jesus, you can do nothing (John 15).
- The benefits of membership are that we get to worship Jesus together, serve in His kingdom together, and be children of God together! We enjoy the guidance that his Word provides, and, when sin comes between us, we enjoy the reconciliation Jesus' blood provides.

#### **B. What Membership Looks Like**

A member of SIBC is one for whom the following is true:

- Trusts in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Affirms both SIBC's statement of faith and mission.
- Meets one of the following three (3) requirements:

- Transferred membership by letter from a previous church of like faith.
- Membership through believer's immersion baptism.
- Membership by statement of faith as approved by pastoral staff and/or the leadership team.
- Is committed to worship, fellowship, and mission/ministry through SIBC. For example:
  - Regularly attending an SIBC worship service.
  - Participation in the community through Gospel Communities, and/or in other ministries or missions.
  - Financial support of SIBC and its mission through tithes and offerings.<sup>2</sup>

### ***C. How Do I Become a Member of SIBC?***

Those interested in becoming members of SIBC will find numerous opportunities to learn about the church, its leadership, and vision. Quarterly "Pizza with the Pastor" meetings provide an opportunity to become better acquainted with our Senior Pastor. In addition, regular classes helping new comers to get better acquainted with our staff and Leadership Team are also conducted. These classes are not mandatory, but do help people get connected to the church and its ministries.

Ultimately, membership at SIBC requires a few simple steps. First, reach out to any member of the SIBC pastoral staff, or Leadership Team and let them know you are interested in joining. Then, either the Senior Pastor, or one of the church's Associate Pastors will reach out to you to set up a short meeting so that we can get to know you better, and understand where

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<sup>2</sup> All financial decisions and documents are approved by the leadership team as well as members of SIBC, and are available for viewing. SIBC takes the stewardship of God's resources seriously seeking to honor both God and the giver in the handling of all finances.

you are in your walk with the Lord. Finally, you will be introduced to the SIBC body at a church service as a new member, where your covenant to SIBC, and our covenant to you are acknowledged.

#### ***D. What if I'm a member of another church back in my home country?***

Because of our unique ministry as an expatriate church, we sometimes find ourselves presented with unique challenges and one of those is membership. The challenge arises out of having many people from various Christian denominations and traditions who call SIBC home. It is out of a desire to honor such people that we offer ***WatchCare Membership***. *WatchCare Membership* is available for those who (1) desire to maintain membership at their church back in their home country, and/or (2), for those whom acknowledge Christ as their Lord and Savior but have not been baptized by immersion. That said, *WatchCare Members* are afforded all the rights of full SIBC membership including pastoral care, communion, access to all of our ministries, mission opportunities, and the like, save voting on the annual budget or other called church votes.

We do realize that for some this may be a sensitive issue. Our hope in all of this is to honor our centuries of Baptist tradition as well as the traditions of those who would fellowship with us for the period of their duration in Seoul. If you have further questions concerning SIBC's position on this matter or would like to be baptized, our pastors and deacons are more than happy to meet with you. By emailing [contact@sibckorea.org](mailto:contact@sibckorea.org) we can help arrange a meeting for you with the appropriate pastor or deacon.

#### ***E. SIBC Membership Covenant***

##### ***1. Introduction***

"...Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." – Romans 12: 1-2

As Christians, we are members of God's household (Eph. 2:19) called to function, participate, and minister in a particular place within the body of Christ. A healthy body requires that each member do its part well. A healthy church requires the same: members who are sacrificially committed and well-equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph. 2:10; 4:12). Seoul International Baptist Church holds its members in high regard; expecting them to lead as witnesses of the gospel to the culture. God, in his sovereignty, placed us in Seoul, among these people, at this time, for a reason (Acts 17:26-27).

"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them..." – Romans 12: 3-8

Being a member of SIBC is really about being part of a family. All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by their identity in Christ. This unity is expressed in the way they collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christians, and loving non-Christians. Members who enter into a covenant with their local church are acknowledging their commitment to *a higher degree of responsibility and service*.

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace..." -1 Peter 4: 8-10

## 2. *What is a Covenant?*

- A covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other (Ezek. 20:44; 36:22; Ps. 76:11; Hos. 2:19-20; 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:13). The Seoul International Baptist

Church covenant includes a statement of faith, a statement of biblical doctrine, the obligations of SIBC to its members, and the obligations of members to SIBC. Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and the church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God as a commitment to his glory and his bride, the church (Eph. 5:25).

### *3. Member's Statement of Faith and Biblical Doctrine*

- I am a Christian saved from the eternal wrath of God by faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through his death and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life (John 3:16-18; Rom. 3:23-26).
- I believe Jesus Christ is who he claimed to be (Isa. 53:6; Matt. 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:70; John 4:25-26; 6:29; 8:58; 11:25-27; 14:6-7; 15:5).
- I have repented of my sins and have been made a new creation in Christ (1 John 1:9; 2 Cor. 5:17).
- I will be diligent to pray for SIBC, its members and leaders, and to avoid promoting teaching or practices that are divisive.
- I agree that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the ultimate doctrinal authority on all matters (Is. 55:11; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:15-16; Heb. 4:12).

### *4. Obligations of SIBC to its Members*

- We covenant that your pastors and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5).

- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service (Eph. 4:11-13) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12).

#### *5. Member's Obligations to SIBC*

- I have read and understood the SIBC Statement of Faith and Doctrine and will seek to preserve unity and peace of the church (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17).
- I covenant to live my life, by God's grace, under the authority of Scripture (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- I will strive to maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines (Ps. 105:1-2; Ps. 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3).
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18; Rom. 12:1-8; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:7-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

#### *6. Commitment to the Mission of SIBC*

- The mission of SIBC is to faithfully proclaim and embody the gospel so as to lead people into lives of true worship, community, and mission. I have read the mission statement of SIBC and commit to

participate in this mission as a faithful disciple of Jesus: that my identity would be in him; my worship for him; my fellowship through him; and my interaction with culture would be for his glory.

- All new members will be acknowledged in an SIBC worship service. New members will agree to the covenant below, and the SIBC congregation will accept their membership by agreement as stated in the covenant below:
  - **The Member:** *As a member of Seoul International Baptist Church, I acknowledge Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and the only hope of salvation. I agree to diligently seek to live my life according to the Bible, God's Word, and to encourage others in their commitment to Jesus Christ.*
  - **The Congregation:** *We acknowledge these new members and will seek to encourage each of them in their commitment to Christ and His Word.*



