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# COVENANT PARTNERSHIP RESOURCE GUIDE



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## SECTION 1: WELCOME TO OH BE JOYFUL CHURCH

Dear OBJC Family,

You're invited to join in Covenant Partnership with the people of Oh Be Joyful Church.

A symphony gives us a great illustration of the importance of Covenant Partnership:

Imagine that period of time when you are finding your seat and the symphony is warming up - it's a bit of a cacophony mixed with a sense of anticipation for something great that is to come. The conductor steps on to the stage, approaches the platform, and the musicians quiet and prepare themselves. You have a brief moment to adjust before the conductor's arms go up. Then the symphony begins - the many musicians playing many instruments are suddenly working from the same page and the result is beautiful.

Covenant Partnership serves to direct the diverse body of Oh Be Joyful Church to the same page of music. It is an invitation to the community of our church to commit to one another around orthodox biblical principles, be united, and, therefore, effective. The Bible says that we are citizens of His kingdom, important parts of His body, family members, even His bride. If those things are true about us then it makes sense to look one another in the eyes, link arms, and commit to common mission, beliefs, and character.

In November of 2023 our message series called "Rediscovering Church" sought to level set us around God's purpose for His Church as a whole. Our first message series of 2024 called "United" was meant to strengthen our understanding of the unique mission of OBJC and what it means to be connected here.

I am sure that you will have questions - please feel free to reach out. Our elders and staff and many other leaders have been working on this and praying about it for several years and sincerely desire to hear from our church family as Covenant Partnership becomes a reality.

Sincerely,

**Scott**

For the Oh Be Joyful Staff and Elders



## HISTORY OF OH BE JOYFUL CHURCH

In the hearts of a few faithful local believers and second home owners, there came a cry of prayer for God to plant, establish, and grow an evangelical church in Crested Butte. To those prayers an answer came that brought into existence the Body of Christ called Oh Be Joyful Church. Oh Be Joyful is the name of a mountain peak and scenic local creek which has come to personify the character of the town of Crested Butte as well as the church.

In 1979, Steve and Linda Moorehouse took the leadership of the fledgling OBJC. God's favor was shown and in a short time a small group of believers were gathered to worship the Lord and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Oh Be Joyful Church met in numerous places over the years beginning in a bar and restaurant in Mt. Crested Butte. The following years saw the church sharing the local Catholic sanctuary, meeting in the school gymnasium, and finally coming to rest in their own space on the corner of Seventh and Maroon in Crested Butte. By this time, the congregation had grown to about 60-70 believers - some living locally and others out of town.

In 1986, Steve and Linda were called into the foreign mission field and the ministry was carried on by George and Madeline Hoherd for the next three years. The Hoherds were followed by Jim and Abby Kunes who ministered to the town and greater valley for nearly 24 years. During that time the church continued to grow and prosper with a mission focused on the Ministry of Reconciliation.

The building on the corner of Seventh and Maroon was a long-standing home that had been converted into what was called the "Pantry". It served both as a small restaurant and a living quarter for the guests of the nearby Ore Bucket Lodge. The Pantry was purchased by OBJC in 1988 and was remodeled to serve as the church's first permanent home. What once was a living room, now served as the sanctuary for the next 12 years. Over that time the church thrived and slowly outgrew the space. In a step of faith, the church embarked on building a new facility on the same land. Less than a year later over 300 volunteers from around the country built a new and debt-free building where the Pantry once stood.

Around the same time, mission work became ingrained in the heart of OBJC. Groups visited Romania, Mexico, Roatan, Thailand, Appalachia, Peru, and innercity Denver, Colorado. Coinciding with the mission focused outreach, Jim and Abby established a unique community youth ministry by partnering with the other two churches to create Crested Butte Community Youth. Eventually the Community Youth program transformed into Young Life which is still active in the valley today.



In 2013, Jim Kunes retired and Scott Winn took over as Lead Pastor alongside his wife, Claire. Jim remained as an elder until 2020.

In the following years the Lord brought exciting growth and change that continued to confirm God's hand on the ministries at OBJC. Milestones included the Young Life building, new mission programs, and new forms of engagement with the community. Outreach efforts led to increased growth making the need for more space evident. Again, God extended His amazing grace and a debt-free expansion of the church facility was proposed and implemented. The project completed in 2019. The growth God brought has led OBJC to bring on additional staff to help carry the load and continue to expand ministry opportunities.

The mission of Oh Be Joyful Church today is simple: bring gospel transformation to the Gunnison Valley. Our vision is to bring the renewing hope of Jesus to the people who love Crested Butte - local and guest alike - and to impact the world by sending that hope out through the people of the church.



## SECTION 2: MISSION & DNA

**MISSION:** Bring Gospel Transformation to the Gunnison Valley.

**OUR DNA STATEMENTS ARE THE MOST CONCISE WAY TO EXPRESS WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT. THEY EACH GET TO THE CORE OF WHO WE ARE AND OUR FOCUS.**



### **WE ABIDE IN JESUS**

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. *John 15:4-5*



### **WE PASS THE BATON**

And Jesus came and said to them, "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*



### **WE ARE HEAT AND LIGHT**

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. *Matthew 5:14-16*



### **WE GO TOGETHER**

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. *Acts 2:42-47*



## SECTION 3:

### ESSENTIAL BELIEFS (Oh Be Joyful Church Statement of Faith)

#### **Scriptures –**

We are a church dedicated to upholding and interpreting the Scriptures accurately.

*Matthew 5:17-20; John 10:22-39,16:12-15;*

*1 Corinthians 2:13-16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21*

#### **God –**

There is one living and true God who is one in essence while existing in three distinct co-eternal and co-equal persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Though each person of the God-head possesses the same nature each functions differently in respect to God's dealings with man.

*Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:16-20; John 6:27; Acts 5:3-4;*

*2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:7-9*

#### **God the Father –**

The Father is the first person of the Trinity who orders and directs all things according to His own purpose, pleasure, grace, and glory. He graciously involves Himself in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

*Matthew 6:9; John 5:19-24; Ephesians 1:3-6*

#### **God the Son –**

God the Son became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, who was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and who is true God and true man. Jesus Christ died for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His shed blood.

*Matthew 1:18-25; Mark 10:45; John 1:14,11:33, 8:40;*

*Romans 3:24-26, 5:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:14; Hebrews 1:8-9, 2:13-18;*

*1 Peter 2:6-8, 3:18*

#### **God the Spirit –**

The Holy Spirit is a person possessing all the distinctively divine attributes. He is God. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates, seals, and sets apart the believer to a holy life. At regeneration He baptizes the believer into the body of Christ and comes to indwell him permanently.

*John 3:5-7, 14:16-17; 16:7-8; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, 12:11, 12:13;*

*Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 3:5*



### **Humanity and Sin –**

Man and woman were created in the image of God, sinned, and consequently experienced physical death and spiritual death (which is separation from God). The consequences of this sin affect the entire human race. All human beings are born with an inherited sinful nature and sin in thought, word, and deed.

*Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:17, 3:6; Mark 7:20-23; John 2:24-25; Romans 3:23, 5:12-19, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:18; Acts 1:8*

### **Satan –**

Satan is a real, volitional, and spiritual being revealed in Scripture. With limited power he attempts to defeat Christians and the work of God. Christians can overcome Satan by applying Scriptural truth and relying on the Holy Spirit.

*John 8:39-47; Ephesians 6:10-20; Revelations 12:7-12*

### **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ –**

Christ was bodily resurrected, revealed Himself alive, and ascended into heaven. He now serves as high priest, intercessor, and advocate on our behalf with the Father.

*Acts 1:1-3; John 20:24-31; Acts 1:6-11; Romans 1:1-6; Hebrews 7:22-28, 8:1-2; 10:11-14*

### **Salvation –**

Whoever by faith receives Jesus Christ as their Savior, redeeming them from sin, becomes a child of God. This salvation is not the result of any human effort or merit.

*John 1:9-13; Romans 3:21-28; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:16*

### **A Believers Security –**

Believers are kept eternally secure by the power of God through the new birth, the indwelling and sealing of the Holy Spirit, and intercession of Christ.

*John 10:22-30; 14:15-17; Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Peter 1:22-25*

### **Sin Nature & Sanctification –**

All believers, although they are born again, still possess a sinful nature in this life, but that God has made provision for them to overcome this sinful nature and to live for God through identification with Christ, a knowledge of the Scriptures, and by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

*Romans 7:13-25, 6:1-14, 8:12-17; Galatians 5:16-24; 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 John 3:9*

**FOR THE FULL STATEMENT OF FAITH CLICK [HERE](#).**

**TO REVIEW OUR BYLAWS AND CHURCH STRUCTURE CLICK [HERE](#).**





## SECTION 4: SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

The goal of the church is not simply to gather for the sake of gathering but to be formed into the image of Christ. With two simple words, “follow me,” Jesus invites us into a life of learning from Him and walking with Him – this is discipleship. Discipleship is simply learning to live like and with Jesus.

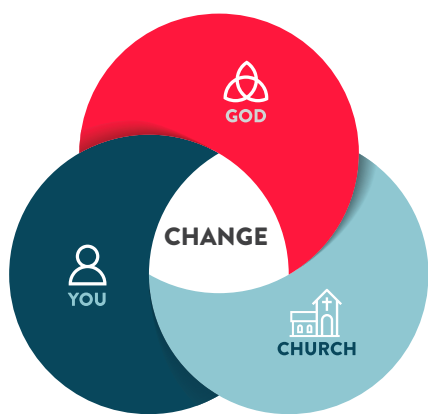
Being “made alive in Christ,” is therefore a life of practicing the way of Jesus. At Oh Be Joyful Church, we are not satisfied with only gathering on Sunday mornings. We place a high value on gathering, but we believe God has called us to work together to see the image of Christ formed in every person God has called us to lead and shepherd.

*Galatians 4:19 - my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!*

*Ephesians 4:13 - until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*

This formation is not something that happens overnight. It is the result of walking a long journey of faith with the people of God in the local church. This formation, then, is rather a transformation. God desires to transform you into the likeness of His Son Jesus.

Spiritual formation cannot happen in isolation. It is the result of being faithfully and intimately connected to God and the church. We believe that all three elements are necessary to experience God’s transformative work in your life. Though God is the sole agent of transformation, He has designed transformation to happen as you practice your faith in your life and in your local church.



### **GOD | Agent of transformation**

God has called you into a life of transformation that can only come from Him. God is the source of:

**TRUTH** - John 1:1-5 / **GRACE** - John 1:14, 16-7 / **POWER** - Romans 5:13

### **THE CHURCH | The community for transformation**

God has called you into active participation in the church as disciples of Jesus. Oh Be Joyful’s role is to:

**GATHER** - Acts 2:42;46-47 / **CARE** - John 21:15-17 / **EQUIP** - Ephesians 4:11-12

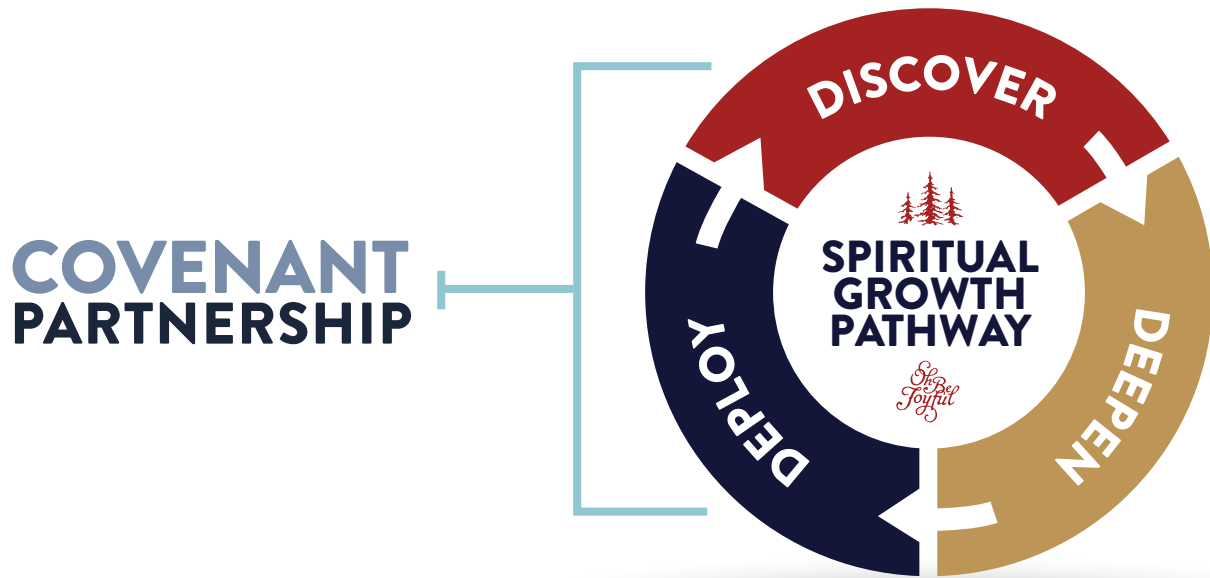
### **YOU | The apprentice of Jesus**

God has called you into the joy of following Jesus through the Holy Spirit as you: **PRACTICE** - John 13:15 / **FELLOWSHIP** - Hebrews 10:24-25 / **INVITE** - Matt. 28:19-20



## The Discover Class

You will learn more about how Oh Be Joyful Church practically works with individuals and groups through the Discover Class. In the class you will learn:



### Step 1 – COVENANT PARTNERSHIP

Explore the ministry of OBJC and find out how to connect with our church.

### Step 2 – DISCOVER

Discover your true identity in Christ. Dive into the details of your personality, discover your gifts, and see how your design reveals your purpose in life and your best fit in ministry.

### Step 3 – DEEPEN

Deepen your relationship with Christ by finding out the Pathway Jesus followed. Find out what it means to be a leader at OBJC and learn how you can strengthen your character and gifting to fulfill your leadership potential.

### Step 4 – DEPLOY

Deploy to connect to the opportunities available at OBJC to live out your purpose and serve others by using your God-given gifts.

*The Discover Class will happen twice a year. Check the weekly enews for the scheduled class.*



## SECTION 5: WHAT IS COVENANT PARTNERSHIP?

### **What is Covenant Partnership?**

Covenant Partnership is an invitation to commit to the local body of Christ for spiritual transformation, mutual accountability and biblical (Gospel-centered) community.

When a person chooses to follow Christ, they are immediately given a new identity as a “saint” in Christ, a “citizen” of Christ’s Kingdom, and are subsequently called to be “members in the household of God.” Covenant Partnership is an expression and declaration of that citizenship to the local church in the Kingdom of God.

*“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.”*

**Romans 12:4-5**

*“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”*

**Ephesians 2:19-22**

*“You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

**1 Peter 2:5**

*“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”*

**1 Corinthians 12:12**

### **Why is Covenant Partnership important?**

Oh Be Joyful faces several challenges to its long term health and growth: including the transient nature of the resort community, theological diversity, societal pressures urging compromise, and a prevailing inclination toward individualism rather than community.

Covenant Partnership addresses these challenges, provides clarity concerning our guiding principles, and binds us together in the fabric of our church community.



## What is asked of a Covenant Partner?

Committing to a local church requires understanding both who you are committing to and what you are committing to. As you consider becoming a Covenant Partner of Oh Be Joyful Church, make sure that you take time to review the History, Mission, DNA, Beliefs, and Covenant Partner Practices below outlined in this document as it will help you understand the heart of Oh Be Joyful Church.

### Covenant Partner Practices

In Romans 12:9-13, five specific principles are taught. It's important to note that these principles aren't rigid guidelines for covenant partnership; instead, they are guidance for all believers in their journey to live out the Christian faith. This involves a commitment to love God, love our neighbors, and actively engage in making apprentices of Jesus Christ. Throughout these efforts, the foundation should always be authentic love—a love that serves as both the attitude and action, seeking the ultimate well-being of one another.

1. **Gathering** – We value the physical, spiritual, relational, presence with one another in the congregation, home, and life.
2. **Formation** – We value discipleship and the transformation of the believer, not as something the church does, but as who we are. We strive each day to learn how to practice Christlikeness through prayer, Bible study, worship, and other practices demonstrated by Christ through our Spiritual Growth Pathway.
3. **Serve** – We value the posture of Christ who came as a humble servant. As such we value serving both in the church, our neighborhoods, and our valley.
4. **Generosity** – We value generosity with our financial resources. We believe that tithing is an act of obedience and worship. The life of a believer should be marked with radical generosity to the church, those in the church, to the poor, to the valley, and to the world.
5. **Hospitality** – We value hospitality as a central practice of our faith. It is the primary way we cultivate the environment to build the church, redeem the dignity in all people and engage the mission of God.



### **Who can become a covenant partner?**

No matter whether you live here full time, are a part-time resident, or join us a couple Sundays a year, if you connect with OBJC and are committed to its mission, you are more than welcome to become a Covenant Partner.

### **What Covenant Partnership is not?**

- Covenant Partnership is not a club that seeks to exclude some for the benefit of others.
- Covenant Partnership is not an effort to elevate “second tier” theological considerations to a place of prominence.
- Covenant Partnership is not a biblical imperative that is crucial to the proper functioning of Christ’s church.
- Covenant Partnership is not an unyielding submission to the elders and pastors of Oh Be Joyful.
- Covenant Partnership does not elevate some within the church above others.

### **What is the covenant?**

#### **1. To commit to OBJC by:**

- a. Reading and acknowledging the DNA, Mission, Covenant Partnership Practices, and Statement of Faith.
- b. A profession of your faith in Jesus Christ.
- c. Prayerfully and responsibly vote in annual meeting and any specially called meetings.

#### **2. To enter the Spiritual Growth Pathway toward spiritual transformation because:**

- a. We believe and affirm the Pathway of Jesus – Oh Be Joyful Church fully embraces that to be a Christian is to embrace the Pathway of Jesus. Our highest value is the person (life, death, burial, and resurrection) Jesus Christ as the all-sufficient Savior and Lord of all people.
- b. We believe in the Formation of Believers – Oh Be Joyful Church is committed to cultivating an atmosphere where people are individually and communally formed into the likeness of Jesus Christ. (**Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3, 1 Corinthians 9:24- 27, Ephesians 5:1-21, Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Matthew 25:14-30, Colossians 3:5-17, James 5:16, 1 John 1:6-10**)



### 3. To Partner with others in accountability

a. To practice and submit to biblical accountability when there are issues, grievances, hurts, or frustrations in the body of Christ including the pastors/ elders, staff, or other leaders.

This means I will:

1. Avoid speaking with gossip, slander, or judgment.
2. Present my grievance to the person(s) responsible and follow the guidelines of **Matthew 18**.
3. Willingly participate in the process of reconciliation in the hopes that the party that caused the grievance would confess, repent and work toward biblical reconciliation.
4. Submit to a process of reconciliation when there is a grievance with me (**Psalm 141:5, Matthew 18:15–20, 1 Corinthians 5:9–13, Hebrews 12:5–11**).

**More information about biblical accountability can be found [HERE](#) (coming soon)**

#### **Furthermore, I commit to...**

- A 3-Year Commitment
- To notify a pastor or staff member if I am leaving Oh Be Joyful Church before the committed time and to seek another church where I can carry out the biblical responsibilities of a believer.



## SECTION 6: COVENANT FORM

### 1. I agree to commit to OBJC by:

- a. Reading and acknowledging the DNA, Mission, Covenant Partnership Practices, and Statement of Faith.
- b. A profession of your faith in Jesus Christ.
- c. Prayerfully and responsibly vote in annual meeting and any specially called meetings.

### 2. I agree to enter the Spiritual Growth Pathway toward spiritual transformation because:

- a. We believe and affirm the Pathway of Jesus – Oh Be Joyful Church fully embraces that to be a Christian is to embrace the Pathway of Jesus. Our highest value is the person (life, death, burial, and resurrection) Jesus Christ as the all-sufficient Savior and Lord of all people.
- b. We believe in the Formation of Believers – Oh Be Joyful Church is committed to cultivating an atmosphere where people are individually and communally formed into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

### 3. I agree to partner with others in accountability:

- a. To practice and submit to biblical accountability when there are issues, grievances, hurts, or frustrations in the body of Christ including the pastors/ elders, staff, or other leaders. This means I will:
  1. Avoid speaking with gossip, slander, or judgment.
  2. Present my grievance to the person(s) responsible and follow the guidelines of **Matthew 18**.
  3. Willingly participate in the process of reconciliation in the hopes that the party that caused the grievance would confess, repent and work toward biblical reconciliation.
  4. Submit to that same process of reconciliation when there is a grievance with me.

### Furthermore, I commit to...

- A 3-Year Commitment
- To notify a pastor or staff member if I am leaving Oh Be Joyful Church before the committed time and to seek another church where I can carry out the biblical responsibilities of a believer.

I am intentionally making the decision to be a Covenant Partner of Oh Be Joyful Church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Spouse) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_





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# **COVENANT PARTNERSHIP RESOURCE GUIDE**