

Appendix B

A Covenant for Life Together in Grace Community House

The mission of Grace Community House is to be a loving presence to children and adults in the Southgate neighborhood of which Grace Church is a part.

GCH residents will have an opportunity to learn about and engage in Christian community development while living in a household with others who are called to serve in an urban setting.

Residents of Grace Community House are asked to make the following commitments as they agree to live and serve together.

1. Devote 2-3 hours weekly to intentional, community-building activity within the house, including eating, at minimum, one evening meal together and participating in a weekly house meeting with the Mentor and Resident Assistant.
2. Devote 4-5 hours weekly to neighborhood ministry. GCH residents will participate in programs initiated by the congregation such as GEMS, Cadets, summer neighborhood activities, and the like. Residents are not expected to create programs, though they are encouraged to suggest ways in which the congregation can be responsive to our neighbors.
3. Negotiate with the GCH Mentor the nature of the individual resident's weekly service, which is to be specified in a written contract to be reviewed twice annually by the GCH Mentor in collaboration with each resident; and, if necessary or desired, renegotiated.
4. Grow in our love for Jesus, ourselves, our housemates, and our neighbors. Develop, in collaboration with the Mentor, a spiritual formation plan.
5. Worship weekly with the Grace congregation.
6. Participate in a weekly house meeting.

7. Eat a minimum of one evening meal together each week, and take turns in the preparation and clean-up of meals. In general, view eating together as a privilege and opportunity, and make it a priority.
8. Contribute in a timely and equitable fashion to shared expenses and household tasks.
9. Seek reconciliation if there is conflict. Speak the truth in love, first by going directly to the person(s) involved; and then, if needed, enlist the help of the GCH Mentor or Grace Pastor as mediator.
10. Live out Jesus' call for unity by making decisions that will affect the community by consensus, seeking and trusting God's guidance in prayer for every decision made.
11. Live in GCH and invest in the neighborhood for at least twelve months – one school year plus either the summer before or after.

Signature of Resident _____ Date _____

Note: Your signature indicates awareness of and commitment to the terms of this covenant.