

Just Neighbors

HOW TO: Inclusive Covenant for Your Home

In simple terms, a covenant refers to a commitment or agreement God makes with us.

When writing a New Covenant for your home, it's important to view it as a promise you're making to both yourself and God regarding how you will steward your property as a follower of Jesus. Given the legacy of racially restrictive covenants, dare to craft your New Covenant in a way that not only undoes the past injustice but also paves the way for a better future. This prophetic action can set the tone for both the spiritual and social aspects of our neighborhoods, cities, and whole region.

To prepare, read 2 Corinthians 3 and Hebrews 8 and reflect on how the authors describe the magnificent glory of the new covenant we have in Christ. As an individual or family, empowered with spiritual authority, boldly craft your property's New Covenant.

By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear (Hebrews 8:13).

How to Start:

Step 1: Pray together as a family and write a new covenant for your home.

When couples make wedding vows, sometimes they use traditional vows, and sometimes they write their own personal vows. As you write a covenant for your home, you can think about it in similar terms. Your personal covenant can include your faith commitment and all of your values. To record a covenant to your deed, it must meet certain legal requirements, so you may not be able to include all of the elements that are in your personal covenant.

Step 2: To formally add your covenant to your home deed, fill out [this form](#).

We encourage you to use the recommended legal covenant for recording on your deed. If you would like to submit your own language for the legal covenant, BKCO will review it and let you know if any modifications are needed.

Step 2: Share your family covenant for a lobby display by filling out [this form](#).

Questions about New Covenants? Please email justice@belpres.org. We are here to help!

Help encourage others by sharing what your family has committed to with your home and property.

Step 3: BKCO Title & Escrow will provide you with legal documents to sign and return. You can expect to receive them by email in 1-2 weeks. After the covenant is recorded BKCO will send you a copy of the recorded covenant. Expect an additional 2-4 weeks for the process to be completed.

Step 4: Consider hosting a [House of Prayer](#) event in your home to commemorate your new covenant: Visit belpres.org/justice to host an open House of Prayer.

Examples of New Covenants:

Recommended Legal Covenant:

I declare that every human being has the right to own a house. It is a fundamental aspect of human dignity and a basic necessity of life. Regardless of race, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status, all individuals should have access to safe and affordable housing. Let it be known that discrimination in housing will not be tolerated, and that all individuals have the right to live where they choose. This pledge will stand as a testament to my commitment to ensuring that every person has the opportunity to attain their desire of homeownership. Anyone who wishes to purchase this home from me is hereby eligible, regardless of their race, religion, or socioeconomic status. This is my covenant, and I stand by it.

Linda Fluke's Personal Covenant (BelPres Member):

God has created the earth and it belongs to the LORD. My desire is to be a good steward of the property and home God has given to me. God created all people in his image. As a follower of Jesus Christ, I desire to be just and to pursue justice for all people. Let it be known that discrimination in property and home ownership will not be tolerated. All people have the right to live where they choose. Anyone who wishes to purchase this property and home from me is hereby eligible, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or socioeconomic status. This is my covenant, a promise to God and myself, and I stand by it.

Paul and Shirley Heath's Legal Covenant (BelPres Member):

We, Paul and Shirley Heath, as the grantor of this property, hereby declare that this property shall be subject to the following covenant:

Discrimination Prohibited. The property shall not be sold, leased, rented, or otherwise made unavailable to any person or group of persons because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, familial status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Fair Housing Laws. The property shall be sold, leased, rented, or otherwise made available in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local fair housing laws

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and regulations.

Severability. If any provision of this covenant is held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

Notice. This covenant shall be included in any deed or other instrument of conveyance for the property, and shall be recorded in the office of the county clerk or recorder.