



AN INVITATION TO COVENANTAL MEMBERSHIP  
WITH CORONA DEL MAR COMMUNITY CHURCH, CONGREGATIONAL

All United Church of Christ congregations covenant to worship God, preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, celebrate the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, realize Christian fellowship and unity with their own church and the Church universal, render loving service toward humanity, and strive for justice, righteousness and peace. But covenanting is more than something that congregations do, it is the very heart of what it means to be a member of a Congregational church. A central Congregationalist tradition brought to our shores in 1620 was the responsibility of each member to claim, grow, and share his or her faith in the cradle of the congregation's life and mission. And this can only be done in a spirit of freedom.

Freedom in Jesus Christ is a gift of grace and love, offered to all without price or obligation. True freedom, however, means choosing whom we will serve, how we will live, and to what we will devote ourselves. From this freedom, we are invited and encouraged to listen for the Spirit's guidance and to answer Christ's call to love and serve God in our own unique and beautiful way.

Here at Community Church, Congregational, we live into this freedom by encouraging one another to think freely, question widely, study diligently, and grow spiritually—on our own paths and at our own pace—trusting the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, who is the light of our lives from the cradle to the grave. We invite our members to walk in the freedom and confidence that God provides clarity in many and various ways. As such, we strive to be an intentional, Christian community of responsible, accountable persons who welcome everyone's participation, encourage everyone's growth, and accept everyone's stage on the journey of faith.

Members of Community Church, Congregational, write their own covenant when they feel the call to join this church—reviewing and renewing their covenants each year in prayerful consideration of current circumstances. Your covenant may be as long or as short as you desire, and may include your declarations of intent concerning participation, service, financial contribution, faith, spiritual disciplines, and areas of special interest. Your covenant is uniquely yours and should include only what you wish to include, after careful and prayerful consideration of what membership in the church means to you. Trusting the Spirit's constant movement and transformative power in our lives, covenants may be revised or amended at any time to reflect changing circumstances and intentions.

Even as we rejoice in the freedom and grace we receive from Christ, we take our covenants very seriously. Covenants are, after all, the promises we make to God and to one another—in light of the loving promises God has made to us.

Rev. Mary Scifres & the People of Corona del Mar Community Church, Congregational

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER WHEN WRITING YOUR COVENANT

A good way of approaching your covenant is to begin with a blank sheet of paper and setting aside time with Spirit to listen, pray, and reflect. This covenant is your spiritual connection to Christ's church in Corona del Mar and need not be an organized essay or polished paragraph. Write as Spirit leads, and make free use of the questions and categories below if they help you organize your thoughts.

- ❖ WHAT ARE MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH EDGES IN THE COMING YEAR?
  - Am I happy with my prayer life? Would I benefit from additional time to listen to Spirit and talk things over with God?
  - Do I find God in study and lively conversation with others? Do I find God in silent meditation when I quiet my mind? Do I find God in heartfelt time connecting with friends and family? Do I find God when building the kingdom in the service of others?
  - Am I feeding my mind by studying the Bible or other inspirational literature? Am I nurturing my heart and touching the hearts of others? Am I taking time to be still and experience the Great Mystery in moments of profound silence and time spent in nature? Am I building the kingdom of God and working for justice and peace for all God's children? Which of these spiritual disciplines fits me and connects me most readily with Spirit?
  - Do I share my faith with others, allowing sacred writings and holy fellowship to deepen my faith, spark my curiosity, and strengthen my clarity of God's call in my life?
  
- ❖ HOW MIGHT I SUPPORT AND STRENGTHENING THE BODY OF CHRIST IN MY CHURCH?
  - Do I gather when my family of faith gathers? Do I participate in worship regularly and join in small groups and ministry opportunities?
  - Am I supporting my community of faith and its people with my prayers and my love?
  - Where is Christ calling me to share my talents and my gifts with a full-throated "Yes!"?
  
- ❖ WHAT ROLE DOES MONEY PLAY IN MY LIFE AND MINISTRY?
  - What role does money play in my spiritual walk? Do I support the ministries I value with my money? Am I a cheerful giver? Is money a reflection of my worth or a reflection of God's blessings in my life?
  - How might I share my financial gifts in support of the life and ministry of this church?
  
- ❖ DO I PLAN TO INVITE SOMEONE INTO THE LIFE OF MY CHURCH THIS YEAR?
  - Having been blessed by this church, am I inviting others to share in these blessings?
  - Am I called to be in ministry to neighbors and strangers?
  - Are there spiritual "widows and orphans" that I could help find a home in this family of God?

*Note: Rev. Mary Scifres and the co-Chairs of the Diaconate will be the only ones to read your covenant. If there is a financial commitment in your covenant, that portion (and only that portion) will be shared with our Treasurer and Bookkeeper.*



# My

# 2018

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

Address (if changed): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Home Phone**

**Birth Date:** Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

Include me in the secure on-line directory. Yes  No

You can count on me for helping with Sunday Fellowship during:

Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall

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