



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

When the Pilgrims came to America in 1620, they brought with them the conviction that followers of Christ have a responsibility to live their faith in a community of believers and to support one another on their own individual spiritual journeys. At Corona del Mar Community Church, Congregational, we live out this tradition by having each member submit a written covenant each year, covenanting with the church and with one another for that year. You can only be a member of Community Church, Congregational by submitting a written covenant since covenanting is the very heart of what it means to be a member of our church!

The Pilgrims also brought with them an insistence on personal freedom and liberty of conscience regarding their relationship with God, a hallmark of congregationalism. So, as you contemplate what commitment you wish to make with your church family, be sure that it honors your core values and your beliefs. Ultimately each of us is individually responsible for living the Christian life, “seeking in grace and praise, to discover God’s will for our own lives on a daily basis.” But we do so in community, a community of faith.

By writing our covenants each year in prayerful consideration of our individual current circumstances, we renew our membership to Community Church, Congregational. Member’s covenants may be as long or as short as they desire, and may include declarations of intent concerning participation, service, financial contribution, faith, spiritual disciplines, and areas of special interest. A covenant is uniquely personal and should include careful and prayerful consideration of what membership in the church means to each member.

What Is A Covenant?

In biblical terms, a covenant is a sacred agreement through which two parties bind themselves to one another before God. While some of our members have discovered new spiritual depths by delving into great detail on how to embrace life as a follower of Christ, remember that your commitment can be as simple as a signed statement saying nothing more than: “I wish to be a member of Community Church.”

Rev. Mary Scifres & the Deacons 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. Your membership begins anew when you return this covenant and covenants you as a member until Annual Meeting in January, 2021. Changes to your covenant can be made at any time by contacting the pastor or deacon.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

❖ 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?

WAYS TO BUILD UP THE BODY

❖ HOW MIGHT I SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN 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?



My Covenant 2020

MY COVENANT

As I, _____, covenant in membership with
Community Church Congregational, I offer these commitments:


I will support my spiritual growth in the following ways:

I will support the church with my time, talent, witness, and service in the following ways:

I will support the church with my treasure in the following ways:

Who Reads My Covenant? Your covenant will be read only by the Senior Pastor and one designated member of the Diaconate, in keeping with the bylaws of our church. All information will be kept confidential with the following exceptions: 1) offers of ministry and committee service will be shared with the Nominating Committee as they build committees and ministry teams for 2020; and 2) pledges of financial support will be shared only with the Treasurer and Bookkeeper for record-keeping and budgeting purposes.




 Name: _____

 Address: _____

 E-mail: _____

 Mobile # _____  Home # _____

 Birth Date: Month: _____ Day _____

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

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

 Winter

 Spring

 Summer

 Fall

Emergency contact information:

Name: _____

Relationship to member: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Mobile # _____ Home # _____

Emergency contact #2:

Name: _____

Mobile # _____ Home # _____