

The Journey of a Lifetime...

*The vision of the Church of the Covenant
lies in offering persons the opportunity
to advance toward the fullest expression
of their Christian faith.*

*This expression is carried out through the work
of inward spiritual disciplines,
known as the “inward journey,”
and outward ministries and missions,
known as the “outward journey.”*

The Church of the Covenant was born out of a vision of the church as a community of persons committing their lives to following Jesus Christ, devoting themselves to their own spiritual growth and to mission. The church held its first official service of worship on October 4, 1954, World Communion Sunday. The Rev. Beverly R. Cosby served the congregation with energy, vision, and deep spiritual commitment until his death in January 2002. In the spring of 2003, the Rev. David L. Edwards began serving as pastor and servant leader.

Intern and Covenant Membership

Two forms of membership are offered to those who feel called to make a formal commitment to the church's life and ministry, and to the inward and outward dimensions of their own faith.

To become a **Covenant Member**, one accepts the statement of discipline called “Our Covenant One with Another”. Covenant Members bear the ultimate responsibility for the life and mission of the Church of the Covenant, meeting monthly to conduct the work of the church. Commitment to Covenant Membership follows a period of exploration as an **Intern Member**. Intern Members meet as needed with a Covenant Member to help them grow in understanding of the nature and structure of the church, work with the disciplines of “Our Covenant One with Another,” and discern God's call to a deeper spiritual life.

Our Covenant One with Another **[Covenant Member Commitment]**

I understand that the purpose of our church is to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sharing the worship of God and in making God's will dominant in the lives of people, individually and collectively, as that will is set forth in the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and in Holy Scripture.

In reviewing prayerfully my relationship to God in Christ, and my relationship to the community of God's people to which I have been led, I now renew my commitment to Christ and wish to express this commitment for another year through the Church of the Covenant by entering fully into "Our Covenant One with Another."

Feeling that we receive strength and encouragement from a joint commitment to Jesus Christ, we, members of the Church of the Covenant, do covenant with one another that each of us will:

- *Engage in the regular and systematic reading and study of the Bible each day as a source of guidance, inspiration, and insight.*
- *Develop my prayer life through setting aside daily the time needed for this purpose.*
- *Give through this expression of the Church at least a tithe of the income which is entrusted to my stewardship as a token expression of God's total claim on my total life.*
- *Participate regularly each week in corporate worship, usually the worship of this church.*
- *Fulfill the privilege of Christian service by assuming the responsibility in the life and mission of the community to which I am best suited or for which I am most needed.*
- *Endeavor in every relationship to be a channel of God's love and forgiveness.*
- *Indicate to the Community or some member of it any difficulty I may be having with any area of our Covenant, and will seek the counsel, prayers, and support of the church.*

Community Membership

To become a **Community Member**, one makes the following commitment:

Desiring to follow Jesus, the Christ, and with the help of God and this community of faith, I commit myself to:

- *take seriously my involvement in the life and ministry of the Church of the Covenant as an expression of my Christian discipleship*
- *participate regularly in worship*
- *give time regularly to prayer and the study of scripture*
- *support the community's life and ministry through the use of my God-given gifts*
- *give of my financial resources in support of this community's life and ministries*
- *endeavor in every relationship to be a channel of God's love and forgiveness*
- *renew my commitment annually, as I feel so called*

The Wider Church Community

We value and encourage participation in the worship, ministries, and life of the church by those who do not feel called to Covenant or Community Membership.

We are affiliated with the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and are an Open and Affirming Congregation of each, welcoming persons of every race, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status.

Mission/Ministry Groups

Members are encouraged to live out their call to mission in the context of a small group that is committed to a specific mission. The group forms around a particular vision for ministry and structures its life around prayer, study, spiritual growth (the group inward journey), and the work of the mission (the group outward journey).

Worship and Learning

Our community worships at 11 am on Sundays, with a time of silent prayer and meditation in the Chapel starting at 10:30.

On Tuesdays at 12:30 pm there is a 30 minute time of contemplative prayer in the Chapel. On Wednesdays, 8 am there is a brief morning worship consisting of silence, singing, prayer and the reading of the lectionary passages for the week. It is followed by a discussion of the scripture readings in the Lodge of the Fisherman.

Other study opportunities are offered from time to time for the strengthening and deepening of the spiritual life and Christian discipleship. Intern, Covenant, and Community Members are especially encouraged to participate regularly in these classes.

You are invited to explore the call to share in the life and ministry of the Church of the Covenant. If you seek ...

- *a deeper spiritual life,*
- *the challenge of greater commitment to God's call*
- *to discover and use your unique God-given gifts*
- *for the sharing of the Good News of God's love*
- *to be in a more loving relationship with others*

... the Church of the Covenant may be the community in which you can find the spiritual journey of a lifetime.