



2016 COVENANT

Personal Covenant Booklet



REDLANDS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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3 Parts of a Personal Covenant

Your Spiritual Covenant

Your Volunteerism Covenant

Your Financial Covenant

Dear Church Family,

The journey of writing a Personal Covenant Statement can be a very meaningful one, indeed. In writing a covenant, we spend sacred time reflecting on our spiritual journey asking ourselves two significant questions:

1. What do I need from the church at this time for my spiritual journey?
2. What can I offer the church so that this faith community can share the exceedingly good news of Divine love?

As you prayerfully consider your covenant, you are invited to fill out the pages of this booklet and bring your covenant to worship on November 8th which is Covenant Sunday. If you are unable to attend the November 8th service, you can always return the covenant to me or the church office.

I will read your covenant prayerfully. Your covenant helps me to serve you more effectively as your pastor and teacher. I am honored to serve as your pastor and to walk this holy journey with you. Please know that your covenant statements will be kept sacred and confidential. The financial secretary will receive the financial portion of your covenant in order to determine the budget for the 2016 year. The Shepherd Leaders who serve as the nominating committee will read the selected items you have indicated for volunteering. Blessings to you as you prayerfully spend time participating in this unique spiritual discipline.

Grateful for Our Journey Together,

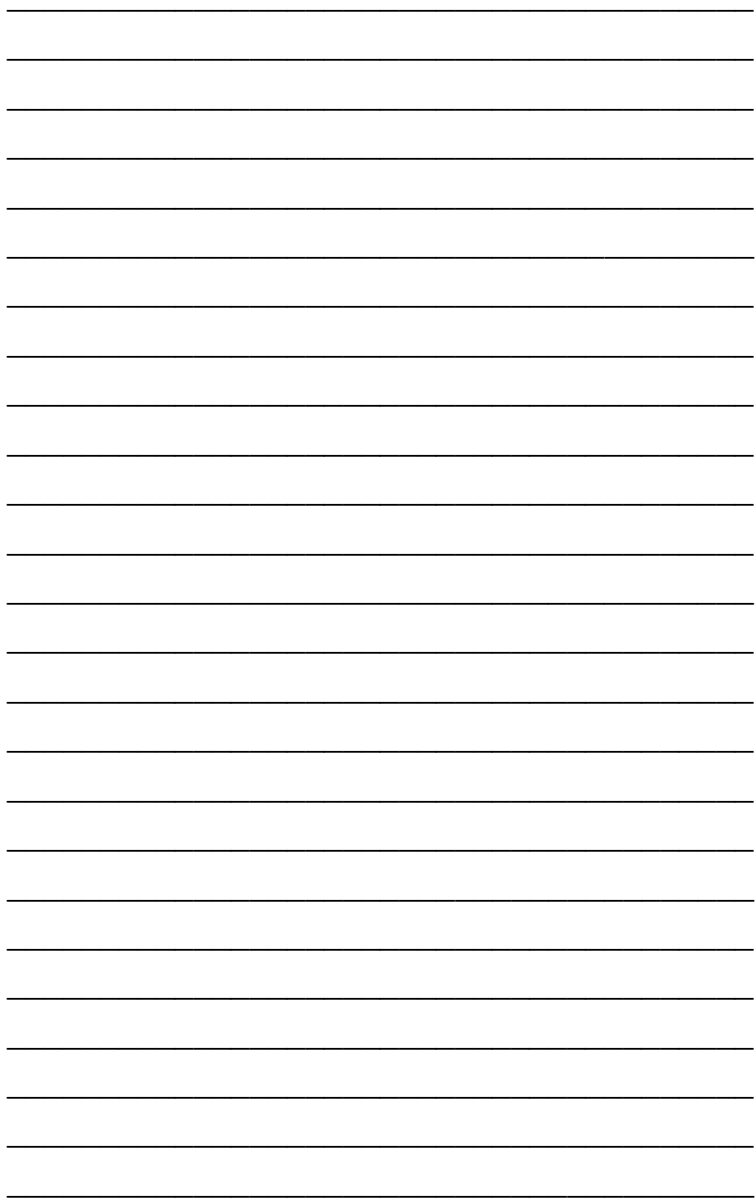
Jill A. Kirchner-Rose

Financial Covenant

A financial pledge is an important part of our covenant process. Whether you are able to give \$1 or several thousand, the act of giving helps to express our gratitude to God and our commitment to each other in a tangible way. Your financial pledge is taken seriously and the church builds its budget around these commitments. Without your pledge, we cannot assume we will be able to pay our employees, our electric bills or provide services to the members. We ask that everyone make a financial pledge this year.

We hope that you will be thoughtful and intentional about what you are able to give. RUCC is committed to living within our means, while enhancing our ministries and programs. The 2016 budget will be based on a realistic view of our financial expectations combined with budget priorities as set by the Congregational Board. Although the board has not yet set the order of specific budget priorities, we hope the budget will reflect these items: compensation for our pastor that reflects conference guidelines, fair cost of living wage increases for our other employees, adequate funding of our church maintenance needs, and elevation of the areas of youth and children's ministry within the church.

Finally, if you have a special passion which you would like to support, the church has several designated funds (Organ Fund, Building Fund, Youth Fund, Campership Fund, etc.). Money given to these funds is either invested or held in reserve until the appropriate time for its use. We do not ask for a pledge for restricted funds, but you may include them in your covenant as you wish.



MY TIME AND TALENT SURVEY

Name: _____

If asked, I would be interested in participating in the following ways to help RUCC perform its mission.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Teach Sunday school (9:30 – 10:15 a.m.)
- Substitute as a teacher
- Substitute as nursery worker
- Assist with Kids' Zone during worship
- Work with youth
- Chaperone youth event/outing
- Lead an Adult Study Class
- Help with gingerbread house projects
- Help with Lenten Series
- Help with Summer Series
- Help with Retreats or Seminars
- Attend a spiritual retreat
- Help with special Study Groups
- Participate in or Lead a Bible Study or other class
- Committee member to organize Christian Education

PROPERTY OPPORTUNITIES

- Trim church property with mower and weed eater
- Painting
- Adopt a section of grounds to tend to weekly
- Carpentry
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Wash windows
- Fill in during caretaker vacation
- Serve on the building and grounds committee
- Serve on the decorating committee

CHURCH LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

- Provide food for some church events
- Plan meals for groups
- Help cook meals for groups
- Help serve meals for groups
- Plan parties and social events
- Send greeting cards to members
- Kitchen monitor (clean, organize)
- Bake cookies for special events
- Committee member to help plan Church Life activities
- Provide treats after worship on Sundays
- Schedule flowers for Sundays

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Be a worship leader
- Communion preparation/clean-up
- Children's Circle
- Candlelighter
- Scripture reader (age 12 and up)
- Communion Server
- Usher
- Operate sound system
- Present a sermon
- Schedule worship leaders, greeters or ushers
- Choir
- Sing solo/group
- Play instrument (kind _____)
- Bell choir
- Help with sanctuary decorations
- Serve on worship planning committee
- Produce original art for use in worship services

CARING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Every covenanting member is a part of a Shepherd Group. Shepherd groups from 2015 will continue through 2016. If you are not yet in a Shepherd Group, please indicate which kind of Shepherd Group you are

interested (check only one). Those who do not indicate a specific group and are not already in a Shepherd Group will be assigned to a General Shepherd Group.

- General Shepherd Group
- Social Justice Shepherd Group
- Families with Children Shepherd Group
- Social Activities Shepherd Group

- Lead or co-lead a Shepherd Group
- Visit the sick and shut-ins or those in need of support
- Help with members' needs: errands, transportation cleaning meals visits pickup truck (hauling)
- Help with funerals: food, serving, set up/clean up
- Send cards to church members
- Phone members who do not have access to the Internet

CHURCH GROWTH/ENRICHMENT

- Publicize special events in newspapers, by email, etc.
- Serve as Greeter on Sunday morning
- Visit prospective members
- "Adopt" a new member
- Public Relations (develop materials that help tell the RUCC story)
- Committee member to help organize Church Growth and Enrichment Area

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

- Serve as Financial Secretary
- Count and record offerings after worship
- Conduct annual church audit
- Help manage church investments
- Help manage church account database
- Serve on Stewards Area to oversee budget and spending

ART FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

- Serve on the planning committee
- Be a greeter/host for the event
- Make food for the event

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- President of the Congregation
- Vice President of the Congregation
- Treasurer
- Clerk
- Member at large to the board
- Area leader of circle one: *Church Growth; Church Life; Education; Shepherds; Stewards; Wider Ministries; Worship*
- Serve on Personnel Committee

WIDER MINISTRIES OPPORTUNITIES / SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our two areas of Social Justice focus for 2016 are Environment / Climate Change and Racial Justice. If you are interested in serving on one or both of these teams please indicate below.

- Environment / Climate Change Team
- Racial Justice Team

Other areas of service in this area include:

- Serve as delegate to UCC Annual Conference and/or twice a year Eastern Association meetings
- Represent RUCC at the Redlands Area Interfaith Council monthly meetings and events
- Represent RUCC at other local organizations and events
- Christian Counseling Service
- Homelessness (RCRC)
- Get on the Bus
- Open & Affirming Ministries
- LGBT church contact
- Serve on the Wider Ministries committee

Church Outings

- Spiritual Retreat
- Plan Fellowship events outside of the church

OTHER AREAS

- Webmaster
- The View Editor
- Wanderings Editor
- Write article for Wanderings
- Work with Editor to create ideas for Wanderings
- Historian
- Photographer
- Office Assistance
- Community Garden

OTHER TALENTS/SERVICES/INTERESTS

I HAVE AN IDEA

I would like to visit with someone about an idea I have for the church.

Brief description:

Personal Information

Please complete the following information for the church office to keep on file. This information will be published in the Membership Directory unless you indicate otherwise.

Name (please print) _____

Birthday (month/day) _____

Mailing Address (apt., space #, PO Box if needed)

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Preferred Phone #: _____
 _____ Cell _____ Home

Preferred E-mail address _____

Children living with you (please include birthdates)

*Emergency contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

*Your emergency contact information is kept in a secure place in the church office, and will not be put in the directory.

Financial Covenant 2016

Your response below is necessary for the Stewards to develop a responsible church operation budget for the coming year for the congregation to adopt in January at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Contributions may be made weekly, monthly, or periodically, as desired either in person, by mail or online at our member website: my.uccredlands.org. All contributions to the church are counted and are recorded by the Financial Secretary.

I prayerfully estimate donating the following amount:

- **To the Regular/General Fund \$ _____**
(circle one) **Annual** **Monthly** **Weekly**

This money supports the general operating budget of the congregation.

- **Additional financial commitments to the church _____**

Please name all family members represented by this commitment: _____

