

Covenant for Congregational Vitality Initiative Between Team and Governing Board of a Local Church

Introduction: Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)
To spread this good news of abundant life to God’s beloved children, we in this local congregation will intentionally covenant among ourselves as congregation and Congregational Vitality Initiative team to discern God’s mission for us in this place and time. Upon discernment, we will seek ways to live out this calling, with radical hospitality, fostering discipleship and commitment to sharing the love of Christ in visible ways.

At this time, will the members of the Congregational Vitality Initiative team come forward?

Representative of Governing Body: While it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, we give thanks to God for your commitment to the work of this team – for answering the call to this task. As a member of this team, you will attend meetings in the next calendar year along with other churches of our Association and Conference, learning the Ready, Set, Grow program, sharing ideas with teams from other United Church of Christ congregations, and bringing back to us what you have learned, that we might experience new life and share that gift with others.

Do you now covenant to fulfill this role, guided by the Holy Spirit and undergirded by prayer, seeking resources and support from our United Church of Christ covenant family – that is, our denominational staff at the national, conference and association level and members of other UCC congregations?

Team Response: I do, with God’s help.

Representative of Governing Body: (*to the congregation*) People of God, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God’s call to this service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

Congregation: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, to honor your leadership and service, to hold you in constant prayer, and to assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ in this endeavor.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may boldly seek your direction on our behalf through the Ready, Set, Grow Program. Encourage them as they share what they learn, and help them be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May all those who covenant here today remain faithful to this call, as we are united in Christ’s ministry, to the glory of your name.

All: Amen. (Suggested hymn NCH # 539 “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”)