



CANADIAN SHIELD
REGIONAL COUNCIL
The United Church of Canada



Covenant of Mutual Agreement

between

Regional Council and Communities of Faith

Background:

With the creation of the new structure for The United Church of Canada in 2019, it was decided that the relationship between communities of faith and the regional council would be based on a covenant agreement. By covenanting together, communities of faith and regional council promise to fulfill their mutual responsibilities for the life and mission of both the community of faith and the regional council. It is by covenanting together that the regional council will recognize new communities of faith, including those formed through amalgamation. (*Manual 2019 5.3.1, 6.3.1 B1.3 C2.1*)

The regional council has created a template for their covenant with each community of faith in the region. It includes the commitments that will support their ongoing relationship, and the life and mission of each community of faith and the regional council. It also invites each community of faith to add symbols to personalize the covenant and express their commitment. A covenanting service will be arranged with each community of faith to celebrate these promises.

Instructions:

1. The governing body of a community faith reviews the template for the Covenant of Mutual Agreement.
2. The governing body, in consultation with the congregation, selects symbols that represent their commitment to the covenant.
3. The governing body adds this information to the template, along with the name of the community of faith where indicated to complete the document.
4. The governing body will notify the Minister, Congregational Support and Mission when they are ready to participate in a covenanting service. A mutually agreeable date will be set based on availability of a Covenant Commission representative. This may be done on the same day as a covenanting service with new ministry personnel.
5. The community of faith, their regional council representatives, and a representative from the covenant commission will participate in the covenanting service.
6. A copy of the covenant will be kept by both the regional council and the community of faith as a reminder of their commitment and promises
7. From time to time the covenant may be reviewed and updated.