

Preparing the Covenant: Notes to Help Prepare the Covenant between a Community of Faith and Living Skies Regional Council

The Governing Body of the Community of Faith, or a few designated people, will draft the covenant, in consultations with ministry personnel and / or the pastoral charge supervisor. The completed covenant is approved by the Governing Body and shared with the Community of Faith.

The Community of Faith portion of the Covenant does not need to be lengthy: ½ to 1 page would normally be adequate. Please feel free to consult members of the Committee on Community of Faith Support if there are questions. Send email inquires with subject line “Community of Faith covenant question” to tmurton@united-church.ca and they will be directed to one of the committee members. Please include inquirer’s contact info phone and/or email.

1. Community of Faith

The preamble will be essentially the same as in sample.

Governance – if you use one of the common or traditional models of governance from the handbook, “Models of Board Governance” (https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/handbook_models-board-governance.pdf), briefly describe the model you use, as shown in the sample covenant.

If you use a governance structure that differs significantly from the common models, and it has been previously approved by your former Presbytery, please attach a copy of the governance structure document as part of the covenant, and provide the approximate date of approval.

If your governance structure differs significantly from the common models and it has not been approved by your former Presbytery, please attach a clear description of your governance policies & practices, to be reviewed by the Committee on Community of Faith Support. A draft governance document is sufficient for the initial covenant.

Ministry Summary – Include a vision or mission statement along with a brief description of the ways the community of faith puts that vision or mission into practice. As you read the Governance Requirements for All Communities of Faith (Manual B.2), consider any unique or special ways you live out these locally, things that might set you apart from other communities of faith.

The following are ideas to get you thinking about what you might want to include.

Briefly identify particular goals or projects you are working on in the short or longer term. Describe in a few words any particular ecumenical or inter-faith co-operation, or shared work with another United Church Community of Faith.

What are the circumstances or context in which your community of faith exercises ministry or carries out its work? Describe any particular mission or outreach work (faith-based or secular) in which your community of faith is a significant player, or which involves many of your members. Some of what you decide to put in this section may be very similar to, or exactly the same as, parts of a recent Joint Needs Assessment Report or Ministry Profile, or your living faith story that you are preparing to put into the ChurchHub. The format can be bullet points, paragraphs, or (almost) anything else that serves to describe the purpose, work, and challenges of your Community of Faith.