

## Covenant Renewal Sunday January 24, 2016



As Community Mennonite Church we annually renew our membership covenant with one another. This ritual is a shared spiritual discipline that has been a life-giving feature of this congregation for many decades. We welcome all our members to renew their covenant with Christ and the church during this year of a CMC Vision Process. If you are participating in the Christian life and witness of

CMC and not yet a member, please talk with one of the pastors. We would be happy to help you prepare for this step in your faith journey. Our membership process includes a time of preparation, usually the Exploring Church Membership class or a catechism class led by a member of the Pastoral Team. We receive **members** through baptism and confession of faith, or by a letter of transfer and confession of faith. We also offer **associate membership** to persons who continue to carry membership in another congregation or denomination. Our CMC Covenant Litany is on the reverse side of this page, describing what membership means to us. For 2016 Pastoral Team and Council have chosen Jeremiah 6:16 as a guiding scripture for congregational life.

**Thus says the LORD:  
Stand at the crossroads, and look,  
and ask for the ancient paths,  
where the good way lies; and walk in it,  
and find rest for your souls.**

*Jeremiah 6:16*

As you prepare for renewing your membership on Covenant Renewal Sunday, please take time to dwell with this scripture. We invite members to prepare a "100 word testimony" in light of our Covenant Litany (see reverse side) and this scripture passage. We look forward to hearing from each other verbally on Sunday, January 24th or in writing.

### 100 Word Testimony

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Statements will be available to the congregation.

**A Covenant Litany**     Adapted from the 10/3/82 Covenant of Community Mennonite Church

We, the people of Community Mennonite Church, believe in God the creator of the universe. We confess Jesus, the Christ, God's Son as Savior. We have opened our lives to the Holy Spirit, trusting the Spirit to enable us to understand God's will, as revealed in the Bible and through the Christian community, and to equip us to demonstrate the spirit of Jesus in all of our relationships.

**We commit ourselves to a life of discipleship.**

- We will follow the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, giving ourselves to learning, repentance, obedience, and active witness.
- We will practice a life of study, prayer, and meditation, confessing openly our spiritual struggles and giving and receiving counsel, support, and teaching.
- We will strive to live with integrity in a world of materialism, inequity, deception, and idolatry.

**We commit ourselves to a life of worship.**

- We will come together having prepared ourselves to meet God and each other, and will actively participate in worship.
- We will bring to God and God's people expressions of our faith through music, sharing, prayer, giving, and proclamation.

**We commit ourselves to a life of ministry.**

- We will join ourselves to Christ's purposes by seeking to reconcile persons to God and each other.
- We will support broader Mennonite Church programs through faithful giving, personal involvement, and prayer.
- We will recognize our interdependence with the larger body of Christ, maintaining our connections wherever possible.

**We commit ourselves to a life of love.**

- We will show our love for each other by sharing abilities, gifts, and material resources for the good of the whole.
- We will offer our time, possessions, and abilities to God for the building of the kingdom.
- We will practice hospitality through warmly accepting all persons in our church, small groups, and homes.

In loving response to God's saving acts in our lives, we do hereby bind ourselves to God in Christ and to our brothers and sisters in a covenant relationship. By this covenant we declare our commitment to live in obedience as a fellowship of believers under the lordship of Christ.

**Pastoral Team:** Jennifer Davis Sensenig, Jason Gerlach, Dayna Olson-Getty, Brian Martin Burkholder, Jan Jenner, and Esther Stenson