

Community Mennonite Church Covenant Renewal Sunday

November 24, 2019



As Community Mennonite Church we annually renew our membership covenant with God and each other in a Covenant Renewal Sunday. Last year we experimented with sharing our “100 word testimonies” at table groups during the congregational meeting. The experiment was well-received, so please come ready to share during the **congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov 24th**. We encourage all members and regular attenders to participate in the congregational meeting to learn about congregational vision and discern together

future directions.

If you are not yet a member, please talk with one of the pastors and consider what belonging to this local congregation means for you. We would be happy to help you prepare for this step in your faith journey. Our membership process includes preparation--often meeting with a pastor or participating in the Exploring Church Membership class for adults. We also offer a catechism class for youth. 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 carry membership in another congregation or denomination. Our CMC Covenant Litany (see reverse side) describes what membership means to us.

For 2020 Pastoral Team and Council have chosen Exodus 23:20 as a guiding scripture for CMC.

**I am going to send an angel in front of you,
to guard you on the way
and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. (NRSV)**

This passage comes from our originating Biblical story--God's liberation of people enslaved by the imperial power of Egypt who adopt a new way of living in covenant with God. On a personal level, the Advent scriptures next month feature God's messenger or angel, guiding Joseph to accept a non-traditional path for his life, receiving Jesus and establishing a family guided by God's vision rather than living in fear of and obedience to the whims of a dangerous empire. One surprising twist for Joseph was finding refuge for his family in Egypt! How might this verse speak God's word to Community Mennonite Church throughout 2020? How does this verse address you personally? Everyone is welcome to prepare a “100 word testimony” in light of our Covenant Litany and Exodus 23:20.

100 Word Testimony:

Name:

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

Pastors: Jennifer Davis Sensenig, Jason Gerlach

Pastoral Elders: Mike Brislen, Veva Mumaw, Brian Martin Burkholder, Linda Gnagey, Hannah Bailey