

## One Year of Covenant for Ohio Conference Congregations

*If we intend to sign the Covenant, what responsibilities will that entail for us?*

1. The primary events will involve participation by pastors and other credentialed persons in the fellowship. These would be one-day, self-contained events which congregations would see as part of the pastor/s regular work responsibilities. Clearly supporting their participation would be important. Probably 3 of these in the Covenant Year.
2. Providing any necessary travel support would also be seen as important.
3. Arranging for things that might come up through the church on such days would help.

*How would we go about signing the Covenant, indicating our congregation's readiness to participate?*

Step 1 — Determine that your congregation will participate in the Year of Covenant. Doing this will vary with the fellowship.

- a. Some give general guidance to delegates and pastors as they go to ACA meetings, trusting them to make decisions in harmony with the mind of the fellowship. In such cases, the delegates might best be given some indication of the congregation's mind. While this could involve a formal congregational vote, a thorough survey might give reasonable assurance of the congregation's thinking.
- b. Since this involves primarily pastors and credentialed staff in the events now anticipated, congregations may be ready to give this decision over to Elder / Leadership bodies. These groups are generally partnering with Pastors and other Staff in decisions about use of staff time, and have earned the trust of their people in such decisions.
- c. Congregations could use formal business meetings, often specially called, for such a decision. If this is done, Ohio Conference would certainly be willing to be an informational partner, fielding and answering questions about the Year of Covenant.

Step 2 — Designate signers and sign the Covenant: *Intention to Participate* document.

- a. A pattern of designating the person or persons of the congregation who would sign to participate in the Year of Covenant would be determined by the congregation or its Leadership.
- b. Copies of the document through which an intention to participate is communicated to Ohio Conference will be available on the Ohio Conference web site.
- c. Designated parties can sign and return the form to the Ohio Conference office in Kidron by e mail, mail, or in person.
- d. We encourage congregations to communicate well around designation of signers. Ohio Conference will take at face value forms signed and submitted to us on behalf of congregations. This is a document of shalom not control and we intend to be gracious.

Step 3 — Acknowledge and publicize in some way the completion of the submission of the Intention to Participate form.

- a. Hopefully participation will be celebrated in your fellowship. Some may be most interested in the Year of Covenant events and some most interested in the companion Year of Mission. Both are well worth highlighting and celebrating.

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Congregational Intention to Participate:

CONGREGATION: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E Mail : \_\_\_\_\_

*Our Congregation, \_\_\_\_\_ by the submission of this form, expresses our intention to enter into the events and the commitments of the **One Year of Covenant for Ohio Conference Congregations**. We will attempt to participate fully, converse respectfully, and to the best of our abilities interact with the love and respect due to each other as sisters and brothers in Christ.*

*We commit to support our Pastor/s in attendance at special events and freedom from congregational responsibilities while attending. We will as we are able give emphasis also to the Year of Mission events as the companion focus of this Covenant.*

*We hope to build through our participation our own partnership with other fellowships in growing more into a Body of Christ, maturing as the Spirit leads us.*

*We affirm that those signing below have been granted the right to do so on behalf of our people.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to  
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