

Covenanting Questions

Our responses to these questions represent our intention or our posture. None of us is perfect, but as we grow deeper in our faith, we aim to grow in our faithfulness to these covenant commitments.

Will you be faithful in seeking to follow in the way of Jesus, which is the way of love, peace, justice, and compassion?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you be faithful to Christ and this community through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will, with the help of God.

As you seek to grow in your faith, will you commit to the spiritual practices described in your personal covenant?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you, by the grace of God, do all that you can to share God's love, and witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ in the world?

I will, with the help of God.

An Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

— a statement of faith of
the United Church of Canada

Covenanting

Through Covenanting, our alternative approach to membership, we invite you to make commitments, on an annual basis, to practices that deepen your connection with God, the Hope.Gate.Way. community, each other, and the world. If you feel like you are ready to make some deeper commitments in your journey of faith, we invite you to take this step.

Whether you have had the opportunity to covenant before or not, whether you're new to our community or a longstanding member, the process is the same.

1. Spend some time in prayer, reflecting on where you are on the journey of faith and where you sense God leading you.
2. Use the personal covenant sheet to record some commitments for this year ahead. Those already printed on the form are considered expectations of all who are covenanting. Use the sheet with examples if it's helpful, but do not feel confined by or limited to these examples.
3. Consider the four questions that will be asked of all who wish to covenant. (Our responses to these questions represent our intention or our posture. None of us is perfect, but as we grow deeper in our faith, we aim to grow in our faithfulness to these covenant commitments.)

The Covenant

After spending time in prayer, use the personal covenant sheet to record your commitments for the year ahead, focusing on these five practices: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

The following are considered expectations of all who are covenanting:

Prayers:

- Personal: I will engage and grow in at least one spiritual practice on a regular basis.
- Communal: I will regularly participate in a faith-oriented small group.

Presence:

I will attend worship regularly unless unavoidably absent.

Gifts:

I will practice intentional financial stewardship that demonstrates God's first priority in my life.

Service:

I commit to ongoing service both within and beyond the Hope.Gate.Way. community.

Witness:

- Invitation: I will intentionally share my faith with others.
- Seeking Justice: I will witness to a social justice concern that I feel passionate about.