

COVENANT OF MUTUAL COMMITMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUPPORT

BETWEEN

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH
AND
PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Preamble:

Communities of faith and regional councils share ministry in mutual respect as part of The United Church of Canada. Together they celebrate God's presence, seek justice, and love and serve others. A covenantal relationship, intentionally and willingly entered into by the parties, is an important symbol of this commitment.

A community of faith is recognized ... within the United Church by the regional council through a covenantal relationship between the community of faith and the regional council. (Manual 2019, B.1.1.b)

The terms of the covenant include:

- a) the governance requirements for the community of faith in [The Manual];
- b) any applicable policies set by the General Council; and
- c) any other terms that the community of faith and the regional council may agree to include within denominational policies. (Manual 2019, B.1.3.1)

Changes to the Covenant:

The terms of the covenant may be changed from time to time within denominational policies with the agreement of the community of faith and the regional council. (Manual, B.1.3.2)

1. Community of Faith

Trinity United Church (TUC) covenants to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the current Manual of The United Church of Canada, particularly sections B and G (for congregations), and its accompanying handbooks.

The following terms and/or attachments are additional parts of this covenant:

1.A. The Manual:

The chair of the governing body, ministry personnel and/or pastoral charge supervisor will have access to and be familiar with the Manual, at least section B, and section G (if the Community of Faith is a congregation),

1.B. Governance:

The governance structure for TUC most resembles the Church Council model described in the handbook titled: *Models of Board Governance (2010)*. TUC operates with a church board. The attached organizational chart shows the structure of our governance model. We have a Ministry and Personnel Committee and a Board of Trustees. In addition, we have 8 standing committees (*as shown in the organizational chart*). Committees meet regularly, some more often than others. The board meets formally six times a year: January, February, April, June, September and November. Additional meetings may be held at any time for special circumstances. The Executive Committee of the board usually meets one week before each scheduled board meeting. Agenda topics and other items to be brought before the board are discussed so that the agenda of the board meeting is organized and streamlined as efficiently as possible.

1.C. Ministry Summary:

Trinity United Church (TUC) is a family of faith, called by God. We strive to share the diverse gifts God has given us; responding in joy, worship and service to God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. As a family of God, we are challenged to grow in faith, to reach out and respond to our community and the world, seeking peace and justice for all.

TUC is an Affirming Christian congregation that lives out God's love in worship and service by supporting each other, seeking justice and welcoming the participation of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, socio-economic statuses, cultural diversity, ages and abilities.

TUC is a suburban congregation with just under 1000 people on the roll, 300 families on the mailing list and an average Sunday service attendance of just over 100 congregants. Our congregational age range is infancy to 90+ years of age. The majority of the congregation is estimated to be over 60 years of age.

Our catchment area has undergone significant demographic change in the past 15 years. There are many new immigrants who are non-Christian and there are large discrepancies in neighborhood wealth. TUC's core congregants are aging and moving into assisted living situations.

TUC is in a very diverse neighborhood (over 40 different languages are spoken in neighboring schools) and more and more our congregation is reflecting this diverse demographic. Being close to the University of Manitoba, TUC is also in a transient area. Outreach is important and is how we connect with people in our community and in the world. We actively reach out to the community in a myriad of ways. Below is non-exhaustive list of ways we assist, support and interact with our community:

- We have developed a community garden with 49 garden plots that we offer free to new Canadians, immigrants, refugees and low-income families in our neighborhood
- We have held ad hoc specific events to gather needed items for local groups (e.g. collecting much-needed lentils for the Yazidi people of our surrounding community)
- We host pancake breakfasts for local high school students during exams
- We offer educational session for older adults
- We provide community events like BBQs and fun get-togethers
- We hold Circles for Reconciliation as part of our commitment to the United Church response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call for Action
- We hold Community Round Tables to discuss local issues with people and businesses in the area
- We have an agreement with the local high school that allows students to park their cars in our parking lot during the school year
- As a fundraising activity, we provide personnel to assist with parking at Investors Group Stadium for all Winnipeg Blue Bomber home games and many other events held at the stadium.
- We support the West Broadway Community Ministry through donations of food and sundries
- We provide financial assistance to 1Just City's "*Just a Warm Sleep*" venture
- Each year during the Christmas season we have a "Mitten Tree" and all donations of new mittens and gloves are donated to local elementary schools.
- We provide significant volunteer support to the Fort Richmond Baptist Church Food Bank
- We hold several annual and biennial fundraising events including: Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser, Christmas Stars, Hymn Sing, Guess Who's Coming for Dinner, and other events
- We support and house a local group called the "Sew and Sews" who quilt. Each year at Christmas the Sew and Sews donate a significant number of quilted place mats to Meals on Wheels. They also have a quilt show every two years and the profits are donated to TUC... and this year (2019) the

Sew and Sews are making baby quilts for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Heath Sciences Centre

- We support and house regular yoga sessions for both church members and the general community called "Holy Yoga"
- We support and house a group called Southside Fellowship... a group of local seniors who meet regularly for exercise and camaraderie and are led by a member of the TUC congregation

TUC has one full-time ordained minister and one Congregational Designated Minister referred to as the Staff Associate. In addition, TUC has a part-time church secretary, a part-time church caretaker, a choir director and a pianist.

We strive to make worship meaningful for everyone. Our services typically include music, prayer, scripture readings and messages. We have three music groups with different styles: a traditional choir, a praise band called Second Chance that performs contemporary Christian and spiritual music approximately once a month at services, and an impromptu group called the Trinity Tones that sings on special occasions and special events when called upon. We occasionally have the services of guest musicians who play a variety of instruments.

Our Sunday services involve congregants as:

- scripture readers
- actors in service dramas
- prayer leaders
- ushers
- greeters
- Sunday morning ambassadors to greet and welcome newcomers and answer questions

TUC ministerial staff also provides worship services at three local personal care homes: St. Norbert Personal Care Home, Southeast Personal Care Home and the Waverley and Rosewood Retirement Community.

TUC's building is a multi-use facility that is shared with many user groups on a daily and weekly basis. This includes:

- a) *Full time tenants:* Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Richmond King Nursery School (weekdays)
- b) *Weekly User Groups:* Girl Guide Groups (Sparks, Brownies, Guides & Rangers); Healthy Start (pre-natal & post-natal groups); Baha'i Youth Group; Southside Fellowship
- c) *Monthly or Bi-monthly User Groups:* Sew and Sews, Holy Yoga
- d) *Summertime User Groups:* Wiggles, Giggles and Munch (pre-school program)
- e) *Occasional User Groups:* Local Condo Rental meetings, family gatherings, school groups

THE TRINITY UNITED CHURCH AND GOOD SHEPHERD ANGLICAN CHURCH RELATIONSHIP

Since 2011 the Anglican Church of the Good Shephard (GSA) congregation has been housed in the TUC building as facility renters. However, our relationship with GSA is much closer than that of a landlord/renter one. While we each have individual services and events, we also share many aspects of our congregational lives. Following is a list of just some of the ways in which TUC and GSA share resources, events and other activities:

- There is a GSA representative on the TUC board; and there is a TUC representative on the GSA vestry
- The two congregations have joint services and events a few times each year
- In the summertime TUC and GSA hold joint services and the responsibility for worship leadership, worship music and other worship service activities is shared turnabout

- GSA congregants regularly support and volunteer for TUC fundraising activities (e.g. Bomber parking, Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser) and vice versa
- Our yearly "On the Road to Bethlehem" breakfast and church service drama play is a joint endeavor
- GSA holds a weekly drop-in free soup lunch on Wednesdays which TUC supports
- TUC supports the GSA event called "Just Talk", a conversation class for newcomers and those wanting to improve their speaking and listening skills in English
- A GSA member sings in the TUC choir

In summary, our relationship with GSA is a collegial alliance and a friendship bond borne of shared Christian values.

2. Regional Council

Prairie to Pine Regional Council covenants to fulfill the responsibilities of a regional council as outlined in The Manual of The United Church of Canada and its accompanying handbooks. See especially section C.2 Responsibilities

In addition, Prairie to Pine Regional Council will...

- enable access to specialized technical and professional services from the staff of the denominational council if such services are beyond the knowledge of the regional council staff;
- make information available about grants for communities of faith whose ministers will be on sabbatical leave;
- ensure that sources of funds are widely known throughout the regional council;
- serve as a liaison with mission partners in other denominations and faiths for mission projects on a regional, national, or international level;
- encourage the development and ongoing activities of local clusters of communities of faith and of networks that lift up different aspects of the life of the United Church.

Dispute resolution:

If there is disagreement on any of the terms of this covenant, Trinity United Church and Prairie to Pine Regional Council agree to:

1. as a first step, engage in whatever informal processes have been set up within the regional council (name the process clearly); if this process is unsuccessful in achieving resolution;
2. engage a conflict resolution facilitator to discuss the issues in dispute;
3. agree to binding arbitration, if necessary, to determine all outstanding issues; and
4. comply with any agreement reached or decision issued.

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Trinity Board Chair

On behalf of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council

On behalf of the Trinity United Church Community of Faith