

Gathering Membership Covenant

I believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. I have personally trusted in his sacrifice for my sins and I am actively pursuing a life in conformity to His teachings by the seeking first of His Kingdom. I have expressed my faith publically and followed Christ into the waters of baptism. I am in agreement with the vision and the structure of the Gathering.¹ I now seek to unite with the Body of Christ called The Gathering Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) so that God can use the gifts given through me for the common good and together with my brothers and sisters, fulfill the mission of The Gathering and exhibit the core values. (Please refer to Mission and Values at bottom of page.)

- I will protect the unity of The Gathering by refusing to gossip or engage in factions and divisions. I do not have to agree with everyone about everything because few things are as important as the unity of the Church.
- I will share responsibility for The Gathering by praying for our mission, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with others in word and deed, and by practicing hospitality to guests as they attend our worship and functions.
- I will serve Christ through the ministry of The Gathering by discovering and using my gifts, developing a servant's heart, and engaging in active service at church and in the world.
- I will support The Gathering by making attendance a priority, growing in my spiritual life through prayer and Bible study, and by giving of the financial resources that Christ has entrusted to me.

Mission: The help develop fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Core Values:

Connect We are stronger together than we are apart. The Gathering is about connecting. We connect with God as we connect with people. No one grows in faith alone. We need each other.

Accept All people matter to God. The Gathering is a community where all are welcome and God's unconditional love is displayed in the way that we welcome each other. In Christ, all people are the same, so women teach and pray as the New Testament reports that they did in the early church.

Grow The Gathering is not a place where you come just to endure your problems, but a community where wounds are healed, bondages are broken, sins are forgiven, and hearts are changed. God accepts us the way we are, and desires that we continually change.

Serve The stranger is a priority. The Gathering is not focused on itself. We are not here to meet our needs, but the needs of others. We will make a difference in our community.

¹ At this writing in Sept 2009 we have not yet formed a constitution and by-laws. That will be done once there is a body of members. In broad terms, the structure will reflect the ultimate decision of the congregation's members. All hiring of staff, major purchases and changes will be determined in congregational meetings. It is desired that there be a small council composed of leaders of different ministries in the congregation that will guide the daily and weekly planning and execution of the mission of the Gathering. This is the common practice in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As the church matures, the biblical offices of Elder and Deacon will be established as individuals exhibit those callings and gifts.