

Our Covenant in the Season of COVID-19
Desert Chapel United Methodist Church

Approved 10/3/2020

As we move into a new way of doing church in the days of COVID-19, we acknowledge that the ways we have always done things will need to be changed. To that end, we will covenant together as follows:

1. I will abide by the guidance of the Leadership Board as they are guided by the Bishop on the extent and ability to open our facility and offer in-person gatherings.
2. With care for the vulnerable among us, I will **not attend** any activities on the church campus if
 - I am/we are sick with any of the common COVID-19 symptoms, to include Fever: feeling hot, or feverish; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fatigue; cough; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; headache; muscle or body aches; recent loss of taste or smell; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea
 - I believe I have been exposed to someone who is sick,
 - I have attended another activity of 50 or more people in an enclosed setting over the last two weeks.
3. Because of the love I have for others, within **two weeks** after attending an activity at the church, if I test positive for COVID-19, I will let church office know of a diagnosis. I also understand that the church may keep our identity confidential.
4. Considering the health needs of others as being important, I commit to **wear a face covering** at all church gatherings to protect the health of our siblings in Christ.
5. Knowing that there are those people who are unaware they have an active case of COVID-19, in humility I pledge to maintain a **minimum distance of 6 feet** from other members. This means that as an act of love I will not hug, shake hands, or engage in direct physical contact when I am with others in the church or at church-sponsored activities. I will find other ways to greet one another with joy.
6. As an act of grace toward others, when in-person worship resumes, I agree to be seated by in a designated safe distance seat, even if it is not my 'regular' seat at church. I further covenant not to ask for special treatment or seating accommodations unless physical needs require it.
7. In every effort to care for others, when in-person worship resumes, I affirm the need to inform any guests I bring to church about our covenant and seek to secure their cooperation in abiding by the covenant.
8. Because I believe God is with me always, I seek to honor my faith commitment to God and to the church by continuing to give as I can and increase giving, if possible, to make sure extra expenses due to cleaning/sanitizing church facilities are covered. I do this also because of an awareness that during COVID-19 some in our community of faith have lost jobs and are struggling financially. Continued giving is an act of love and grace for those who can no longer do so.
9. In living the principles found in scripture, I commit to be patient and gracious with each other as we all seek to address the COVID-19 health and safety challenges and the changing information about the spread and nature of the coronavirus.

Acknowledgement and Waiver

Grounded in the love of God, I acknowledge that the instruction from scripture is that we, as covenant people, deal with disagreements and concerns in grace-filled ways, and, therefore, agree that we accept responsibility for our own choices, and the risk that goes along with them. I waive any claim against the church in the event that I or my/our children, if any, contract COVID-19.

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____ Printed Name: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

Philippians 4:5-7 NRSV

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.