

October 6, 2020

Mary of Magdala
Ecumenical Catholic Community
301 E. Stuart St. - Fort Collins, CO 80525



Dear Mary of Magdala community,

We know this has been a difficult time for our community, and we continue to hold each other in prayer. It is inspiring to see your resilience as the people of God - as church. Each day is a reminder that no matter the loss and grief that we experience, our God is one of love, life and resurrection.

As we search and wonder what Church will be after Covid, we continue the commitment we made one year ago when we joined together to create a three-church visioning team with Trinity Lutheran and St Paul's Episcopal. This commitment and partnership may be unique, but it is essential to our growth in ministry, our witness to the community, and our vocation as baptized children of God.

For three years we have been sharing space at 301 E. Stuart St, which has expanded into shared ministry. Throughout the last several months, we have continued to discuss the possible places where we could enter deeper into partnership, now and the future, and we thank you for supporting these efforts. (These examples being liturgy, eco and social justice and hospitality.) We see the opportunity to live out the truth in our name – ecumenical – while retaining our individual identity and traditions.

As we've conversed about how to better partner together, we realize that we need to have a renewed agreement, in order to take the next steps together. Having introduced the work being done to create covenant a few Sundays ago, the Leadership Council and other ministry leaders have completed a covenant, a promise, that we are making to one another. (Please see the covenant on the back of this letter.)

This covenant is based on our Love for God and one another first, which allows us to work together to determine the equitable share of expenses and volunteer work.

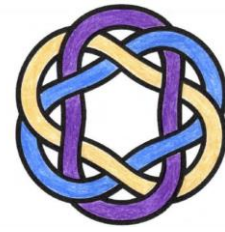
Our wish was to meet in person to share this covenant but, since it is not possible, we are sending you this letter to communicate our renewed agreement (covenant) to continue and build our relationship together in ministry as the 'Faith Partners.' This covenant also allows us to discuss sharing of resources, knowing that we can do more together in ministry than we can do alone.

As always, if you have concerns or questions about our renewed agreement and covenant, please let Co-Pastors Jane or Rosean or members of your Leadership Council know. We value all input from the community.

Thank you for trusting in your leadership., We are excited to go together into undiscovered places, knowing that with a vision and co-creating with God we will be led into a spirit-filled future. Please join us Sunday, October 25, at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom to celebrate this Covenant with our Faith Partners.

In Christ's love,
Co-Pastors Jane and Rosean and your Leadership Council

COVENANT FOR THE FAITH PARTNERS - October, 2020



God's covenant with God's people from the beginning is to unite all creation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit revealed at Pentecost recognizes the different gifts and languages among us, while holding us together as one Church, one body of Christ working together as partners. Our ministry partnership, grounded in the love of Christ, is a flawed yet beautiful expression to the community of God's dream for this world. God's mission has a church: here at 301 E Stuart.

As we move into a long-term partnership, Trinity Lutheran, St. Paul's Episcopal, and Mary of Magdala Ecumenical Catholic Community, will have expectations of one another, renewable agreements, and promises to one another. As three separate and unique congregations, but one faith community, we promise to hold our respective communities in prayer and covenant with one another:

1. **We covenant to LOVE** – to love God, Self, and our Partners in Ministry as we Love Our Self; seeking together God's will for our partnership.
2. **We covenant to COMMUNICATE** – to be open, honest, and more effective in communication among our three congregations; to communicate the decisions and work of our faith partnership to all three congregations; to respect each congregation to retain its own unique historical character, governance, and polity, as each continues to manage its own finances, even as we share expenses.
3. **We covenant to WORK TOGETHER in all Volunteer Areas** – to help share the responsibility and care of our common spaces including sanctuary, kitchen, narthex, fellowship hall, and sacristy. We will continue to work together across ministry teams such as Faith Formation, Social Eco Justice, Music, and Property, while promising to find other ways to faithfully engage in ministry together.
4. **We covenant to SHARE monthly Operations and Maintenance Expenses** – to reassess each congregation's contribution, based on need and ability, to the shared expenses of operating and maintaining the church and its ministries. We share together the information of finances, to better contribute to the shared expense of ministry.
5. **We covenant to INVITE one another into any capital expense** – to consider, create, and fund capital projects (expenses outside normal monthly operation and maintenance) for use by all three congregations.