

REDLANDS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



2027 COVENANT

Personal Covenant Booklet



3 Parts of a Personal Covenant

Your Spiritual Covenant

Your Volunteerism Covenant

Your Financial Covenant

A Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

What a gift it is for me to participate in such a welcoming, dynamic, and joyful community of faith! We are a congregation with a heart for service to the community—from sharing resources through our *Caring for Kin* ministry to sharing beauty in our *Art, For Heaven's Sake!* festival. As an Open and Affirming church, we live out the gospel's call to radical hospitality. We also commit ourselves to the gospel's vision of justice. We find spiritual nourishment for all of our work in our worship, classes, and practices like *Sacred Saturdays*.

“We” is the operative word. At RUCC, we know that *we* are the church. Participation is vital. Every year, our faith community invites each individual to commit to participating in our congregational life. In this small booklet, we ask you to do this in three ways. First, we invite you to affirm the personal covenant statement in the booklet by signing your name. Second, we ask you to indicate the areas in which you are willing to share your time and talents. Third, we invite you to name the financial contribution you choose to give to support the work of the church.

Finally, in the space provided in the booklet, you are invited to write about your spiritual journey. You might want to share something about your relationship with God or your beliefs in general. You might want to express your reason for wanting to participate in a community of faith. Only I, as your pastor, will read this section of your covenant. While this is optional, it will give me a better understanding of you and the congregation as we journey together. It may also help you see more clearly where you are on your personal faith journey.

We hope this covenant booklet provides a concrete way for you to affirm your commitment to our community of faith and the work we are called to do together.

Blessings,

Pastor Michael

1. Affirmation

The annual covenant is a time for reflection, discernment, and commitment. Members who covenant are a part of this faith community and support each other on our personal spiritual journeys. In doing this, we build stronger relationships with each other, our community, and God, as we share our time, talents, and resources.

I, _____, covenant as a member of Redlands United Church of Christ for 2027.

Personal Covenant Statement

Use the space here to write your *personal covenant statement*, essentially a commitment you are making to God and to this congregation. This may include, but is not limited to, statements about your personal spiritual journey, your hopes for your relationship with God, your active participation in RUCC, and your expectations of your church family and pastor. Your statement is prayerfully held in confidence, read only by the pastor. It is entirely optional.

Please add pages or insert a printed version if needed.

[illegible]

2. My Time and Talents

Name: _____

I am willing to participate in the life of the church in the following ways:

BOARD LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ President
- ☐ Vice President
- ☐ Treasurer
- ☐ Clerk
- ☐ Member-at-large

- Area leader of:
- ☐ Church Growth
 - ☐ Stewards
 - ☐ Education
 - ☐ Hospitality
 - ☐ Shepherds
 - ☐ Worship
 - ☐ Wider Ministries

Standing committees per RUCC’s bylaws:

- ☐ Personnel Committee (3-5 people)
- ☐ Pastoral Relations Committee (4-6 people)
- ☐ Nominating Committee (6-8 people)

CHURCH GROWTH/ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Serve on Church Growth Committee
- ☐ Assist with communications (web, social media, and print media)
- ☐ Assist with *The View* newsletter
- ☐ Serve as a greeter for Sunday services
- ☐ Serve as a mentor for new church members

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Serve on Education Committee
- ☐ Serve on subcommittee for Summer Series
- ☐ Serve on subcommittee for Lenten Series

Teach or assist in one or more of the following program areas:

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nursery | ☐ Teach | ☐ Assist |
| Children | ☐ Teach | ☐ Assist |
| Youth | ☐ Teach | ☐ Assist |
| Adult | ☐ Teach | ☐ Assist |

- ☐ Be the second adult in the room (teacher is first) to fulfill the RUCC Abuse Prevention Policy

HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Serve on Hospitality Committee
- ☐ Pitch in for fellowship hour a few times a year. Many hands make light work!
- ☐ Help organize fellowship hours and supplies
- ☐ Assist with church special events (*plan, provide food, setup, cleanup*)
- ☐ Assist with outside events like weddings and funerals

SHEPHERD AREA OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Lead or co-lead a Shepherd group
- ☐ Visit church members at home or in the hospital
- ☐ Bring communion to homebound members
- ☐ Help with members' and friends' funerals and other events by greeting, helping with setup, or helping with the reception afterwards

All church members are assigned to Shepherd groups, which are shuffled every three years. As we shuffled in 2026, we will not do so again this year.

WIDER MINISTRIES OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Serve on the Wider Ministries Committee
- ☐ Serve on the Immigrant Justice Team
- ☐ Serve on the Environmental Justice Team
- ☐ Serve on the Social Justice Team
- ☐ Lead LGBTQAFG group (*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Allies Faith Group*) --**currently inactive**, needs person(s) wanting to organize and activate
- ☐ Help with the annual Rummage Sale
- ☐ Coordinate *Caring for Kin* monthly food and donation program
- ☐ Assist with e-waste recycling drive

- ☐ Assist with Souper Bowl Sunday food collection drive
- ☐ Help with the Angel Tree Christmas donations project

Serve as a delegate to:

- ☐ SoCal & Nevada UCC Conference Annual Gathering
- ☐ Redlands Area Interfaith Council (*monthly, usually online*)

STEWARDS AREA OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Serve on Stewards Committee
- ☐ Serve as Financial Secretary
- ☐ Serve as a Teller
- ☐ Help coordinate RaiseRight fundraising
- ☐ Serve on the audit committee
- ☐ Manage a facility or property project
- ☐ Serve on the decorating committee
- ☐ Organize workdays

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Serve on the Worship Committee
- ☐ Volunteer as a worship leader
- ☐ Serve as youth reader
- ☐ Preach a sermon
- ☐ Prepare and clean up after communion
- ☐ Volunteer as a lay communion server
- ☐ Serve as usher (*collect offering and assist folks in finding seats*)
- ☐ Serve as a candle lighter at the start of the service
- ☐ Work the AV technology
- ☐ Lead Sacred Saturday mini retreats
- ☐ Participate in prayer shawl ministry
- ☐ Lead a meditation or spirituality group
- ☐ Set up and decorate sanctuary for special seasons and services

Enrich our services with music, language, and the arts:

- ☐ Covenant Choir
- ☐ Celebration Ringers Bell Choir
- ☐ Sing solo or with a small group
- ☐ Sacred movement
- ☐ Play an instrument _____
- ☐ Participate with other arts _____
- ☐ Incorporate a language other than English (*including ASL*)

ART, FOR HEAVEN’S SAKE!

- ☐ Serve on the planning committee
- ☐ Volunteer for the show weekend (*sign-ups will be held in the weeks preceding the art show*)

A2A (Accessible to All)

- ☐ Lead the committee
- ☐ Serve on the committee

OTHER TALENTS/SERVICES/INTERESTS OR IDEAS FOR THE CHURCH:

Personal Information

Please complete the following information for the church office to keep on file. This information will be used to update our online database *Realm* (onrealm.org/RUCC) and to create a physical directory for those who want one.

Name: _____

Birthdate (*month/day/year*): _____

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Children living with you (please include birthdates):

Emergency contact (will be kept private):

Name: _____

Phone: _____

☐ Check here if you wish to be excluded from the physical directory.

3. Financial Covenant

No church can thrive without the abundant generosity of its members. RUCC has flourished in part because of the financial giving that funds our ministries. By indicating your planned giving for 2027, RUCC can make the most of your gift through careful planning and stewardship of our funds. Above all, giving is an act of gratitude to God and the blessings God has put into your life.

In 2026, our expense budget was about \$435,000. For 2027, we will likely aim to be about 5% higher to keep up with expenses, or \$457,000.

That said, RUCC is committed to living within our means while enhancing our ministries and programs. *The church builds its budget around the financial commitment of your pledge.*

Please be thoughtful and intentional about what you will give. Our budget reflects these priorities:

- An active and generous church that supports other nonprofit organizations with time, facilities, and a 10% tithe of our annual giving
- Fair compensation for our staff
- A well-maintained property and facility

Without your pledge, we cannot assume we will be able to meet these priorities at current levels, and with generous giving, we will be able to expand and grow our ministries. So, whether you are able to give just one dollar or several thousand, we ask that everyone make a financial pledge as part of this covenant.

Financial Covenant 2027

Your response below helps the Stewards develop a responsible church operating budget for the coming year for the congregation to adopt in January at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Your pledge amount is private, with access limited to the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

Contributions may be made weekly, monthly, or periodically, in person, by mail, or online at <https://onrealm.org/RUCC>.

Contributions to the church as a non-profit religious organization are generally tax deductible and are carefully recorded by the Financial Secretary and our tellers to give you accurate year-end records.

I _____ prayerfully pledge the
following amount to the General Fund:
\$ _____

(check one)

☐ Total for the year
☐ Each month
☐ Each week

This money supports the general operating budget of the church.

Please list all family members represented by this commitment:

Redlands United Church of Christ
168 Bellevue Ave
Redlands, CA 92373