

**REOPENING COVENANT WITH AND BETWEEN SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY UMC
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

We the people of Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church covenant with one another to protect each other's health and safety and prevent the spread of COVID-19. In the spirit of John Wesley's proclamation of "Do no harm" and "Do good" and Jesus' call to love our neighbors as ourselves, we covenant to the following actions:

- To abide by the directives of the Bishop of the Desert Southwest Conference - and his guidance on the extent and ability to open our church campuses and offer in-person gatherings for activities.
- To refrain from attending any activities on the church campus if we are sick with any of the common virus symptoms, believe we have been exposed to someone who is sick, or have attended another activity of 50 or more people in an enclosed setting over the last two weeks.
- To wear a mask at ALL times while on campus to protect the health of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
- To maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet between ourselves and other members with whom we are not sheltering at home. This means we will not hug, shake hands, or engage in direct physical contact when we are with others in the church or at church-sponsored activities.
- To practice handwashing, using hand sanitizer and other practices to prevent the spread of the virus through touching common surfaces.
- To be seated according to the established safe distance seating set-up realizing that we may not be in our favorite seats. We further covenant to ask trained ushers for assistance to accommodate our needs and to demonstrate patience as they attempt to seat everyone safely and efficiently for the worship service.
- To continue giving to the church as we can and increase our giving if possible, to make sure extra expenses due to cleaning/sanitizing church facilities are covered.
- To inform any guests we bring to church about these measures and secure their cooperation in abiding by them.
- To be patient and gracious with each other as we seek to address the health and safety challenges and the changing information about the spread and nature of the virus.
- To continue these practices until the leaders in the scientific and medical community, as well as leaders in the Desert Southwest Conference recommend that we discontinue these practices.
- To provide constructive feedback and to participate in the solution, if there is an area of the plan that is believed could be improved.
- To encourage others to continue online worship if they are not able to abide by the plans for worship in person.
- To discontinue a gathering of any kind and vacate the area if someone does not comply with safety practices.

Acknowledgement and Waiver,

Grounded in the love of God, I/we understand that while the church is taking precautionary measures, no amount of precaution will completely protect against transmission of COVID-19. I/we 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/we waive any claim against the church in the event that I/we or my/our children, if any, contract COVID-19.

Printed Name of Participant(s): _____

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____