

# Covenant of Openness to Visions

We promise to be open to the visions God would reveal to us.  
Come, Holy Spirit, and show us the way!

**We declare our readiness to:**

## 1. Let Go

We are ready to risk our traditions and comfort zones to discern the new directions God would lead us.

**Philippians 3:10-14** I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## 2. Let God

We are ready to be surprised and challenged in any way God chooses to speak to us.

**Luke 8:22-25** A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

## 3. Go Deep

We are ready to pray daily and read scripture weekly to go deeper in Christ and further in Christ's mission.

**Ephesians 6:10-18** Take up the whole armor of God. Fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all. Keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

## 4. Open Up

We are ready to consider any change or opportunity for the sake of our walk with Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 9:22-23** I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

## 5. Bear Down

We are ready to set aside trivialities and focus on what is truly important about our future and our faith.

**Matthew 22:36-40** "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

## 6. Share the Load

We are ready to support our pastor and staff to deepen spiritual life and listen for the callings of God.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

## 7. Stretch Out

We are ready to listen to consider the impossible and listen to strangers so that God can help us grow.

**Mark 10:25-31** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age-- houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions-- and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

## 8. Laugh and Learn

We are ready to laugh at ourselves, and laugh with each other. We are eager to try, and try again.

**1 Corinthians 1:25-31** For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Notes to Self:

The following personal tendencies and temptations will undermine my ability to live up to this covenant:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.