

People of the Covenant

You are invited to participate in writing a covenant for us as a church community identifying ourselves as people who are striving:

to be truthful about racial equity,

to do justice, and

to build a beloved community, reconciled and inclusive.

There will be a retreat on **Saturday morning, March 5, 9am to 12 Noon**. Ideally we will emerge with a statement, a covenant, which can circulate through the Boards of the Congregation before coming to the Church Council to be recommended to the Congregation at our scheduled meeting on June 5, 2016.

We live within a tradition that is covenantal. We profess that through Jesus we have been brought into a covenantal relationship with God and with God's people. The prophet Jeremiah promises exiled and anguished people that God will write an indelible covenant on their hearts (Jeremiah 31:33). Paul when speaking to the Corinthians asks that we who are God's people "*show that you are a letter of Christ, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*" (I Corinthians 3:3)



Last fall -- prior to the visit of Rev. Jeremiah Wright -- our Moderators invited the congregation to participate in the retreats with Revs. Wright and Dorhauer as well as the Sacred Conversations on Race classes and series in preparation for writing such a covenant. Though the retreat with Rev. John Dorhauer is being re-scheduled, if we are going to be prepared for our June Congregational Meeting, we need to begin the process. This is a similar, multi-year, process that concluded with the covenant to be an Open and Affirming Congregation in 1993. Just as that journey has been on-going, the journey towards racial equity and the beloved community will be on-going.

Please plan on coming out on **Saturday morning, March 5**, and participate in writing a new covenant for the people God is calling us to be.