**James Street Mennonite Church**

***ROOTED TO GROW…AND CHANGE…AND FLY*: A CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT**

**February 19, 2023**

INTRODUCTION

*Rooted to grow…and change…and fly* is an invitation to join the James Street Mennonite Church community in seeking to understand & actively participate in living out the mission, vision and values that we believe God has given us. This journey together will not be perfect. We will make mistakes and run into challenges. At times we may need a spiritual friend or pastor to walk with us to hear the questions and struggles within our hearts. But this is a new day! As we listen to the voice of the Spirit personally and collectively we can embrace the hope that is present in Christ. In this hope we have the confidence to move forward with living out our calling to be followers of Jesus. Come join us!

MISSION

We are an Anabaptist congregation gathering in Lancaster City that is empowered by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor as self.

VISION

We envision being a gracious Christian community in a world that is increasingly polarized, offering a safe context where people are welcome to embrace our uniqueness and express their differences in an atmosphere of belonging.

VALUES

1. Worshipping God (Godward)

* Gather regularly to sing, pray, read and interpret the scriptures through the life and teachings of Jesus and hear the message of the gospel
* Share our time, spiritual gifts and finances with joy
* Commit to growth in faith using spiritual practices throughout the week (e.g. prayer, Bible study, solitude)
* Integrate our spirituality and our daily work by placing God at the center of all we do

1. Building Community (Inward)

* Pray, nurture and care for one another in daily life
* Walk with God and each other in humility and accountability
* Form a contrast community of seekers who are learning to be radical disciples of Jesus
* Develop relationships with and pray for the body of Christ in our neighborhood, our nation and our world

1. Witnessing to the world (Outward)

* Call and send every believer to proclaim Jesus’ good news
* Invite others to join us in following Jesus
* Take risks in welcoming the stranger and offering a safe place to belong
* Engage in peacemaking by loving our enemies, undoing racism, promoting justice and tending to God’s creation in our personal, corporate, community & international contexts

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

COMMITMENT IN ACTION

In response to the Mission, Vision and Values of James Street Mennonite Church we invite each person to reflect on and commit to engage in the life of this community of faith. A “covenant” involves a promise to do some action. So, our congregational documents do not have life and breath unless those choosing to be a member actively participate in a variety of ways. We are not all alike nor do we have the same gifts and/or passions to serve Christ. Each person must respond based on how and where the Spirit is nudging them to actively engage in mission and ministry. The JSMC Ministry Team invites you to join with us in a commitment to grow…and change…and fly!

2023 PERSONAL COMMITMENTS

1.

2.

3.

COMMITMENT FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

Worshipping God

* How are you experiencing, or not experiencing, God’s presence in your daily everyday life?
* In what ways do you experience God’s presence in corporate worship?
* What spiritual practices build your faith?
* In the coming year, how might/will you make yourself available for God’s presence?

Building Community

* How are you experiencing, or not experiencing, community in your daily everyday life?
* In what ways do you experience community at James Street Mennonite Church?
* In the coming year, what efforts might/will you make to build community?
* How are you caring for your own physical, emotional or spiritual needs?

Witnessing to the World

* How are you a witness of Jesus to the world in your everyday life?
* What gets in your way of being a witness of Jesus in your everyday life?
* In the coming year, what efforts might/will you make to be a witness to the way of Jesus?