

Congregational Core Commitments

Refers to the pledges and obligations that members of a religious congregation make to their community and faith. **Key Aspects** include:

- **Shared Mission and Vision:** Members commit to supporting and participating in the congregation's overall purpose and goals.
- **Stewardship:** This includes sharing time, talent, and financial resources.
- **Service:** Members contribute skills and energy to congregational life such as outreach programs, community service, and support for fellow members.
- **Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Active participation in worship services, prayer, and other spiritual practices is a core aspect of commitment.
- **Community Building:** Congregational commitments involve fostering a sense of belonging, mutual support, and caring relationships among members.
- **Personal Growth:** Members are expected to strive for personal and spiritual growth, both individually and within the community.
- **Public Witness:** Some congregations make commitments related to social justice, advocacy, and engaging with the wider community.
- **Mutual Accountability:** A strong sense of mutual responsibility and accountability is essential for a vibrant and healthy congregation.
- **Flexibility and Understanding:** It is understood that members have different levels of availability and capacity.

Examples of Congregational Commitments:

- Attendance at worship services and other gatherings.
- Participation in small groups or study circles.
- Volunteering for service projects.
- Financial contributions to support the congregation's budget.
- Offering support and encouragement to other members.
- Engaging in conversations about faith and values.
- Advocating for social justice issues.
- Seeking opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

THE BASIC FACTS

Year	Members(1)	Attendance(2)	Receipts(3)	Expenses(4)
0	194	183	92,775	59,979
1	234	202	137,846	113,240
2	280	212	160,696	127,580
3	350	255	233,936	195,102
4	431	336	212,557	235,464
5	519	421	265,633	269,080
6	603	486	348,542	373,892
7	673	580 540	398,407	386,912
8	749	582	655,574	445,466
9	869	596	780,833	600,556

(1) Membership numbers include only adults. Baptized children (8th grade and under) are counted separately.

(2) This is a yearly average of attendance at all Sunday worship services, and includes both members and visitors.

(3) Receipts include income from all sources, but do not include building funds. Worship offerings constitute over 90% of these figures.

(4) Actual out-of-pocket expenses for all Church activities, other than payments associated with building.

Examples of Mission Statements

These are a few of the Mission Statements found on CLC recently.

Church A. Bringing the heart of Jesus to the heart of (Fill in the city.)

Church B. Following Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we listen to a loving God, worship God and celebrate our faith together, nurture each other in Christian love and spiritual growth, work for social justice and peace, reach out in compassionate service, seek to be stewards of all God's gifts.

Church C. We are called to serve God with joy and to bear witness to God's transforming love made known in Jesus Christ. As a community led by the Spirit, we seek to make God's love visible as we: Worship Creatively, Welcome Intentionally, Care Compassionately, Gather Joyfully, Learn Purposefully, Serve Wholeheartedly, Lead Humbly, and Give Generously.

Church D. To be the hands and feet of God in this world. To bring God's healing love to hurting people. To bring the joy of being Christian to a sad world. To bring wisdom and knowledge to an unaware world. To bring good news to the poor. To honor the earth as God's creation. To preach peace, as did Jesus. To be the only Jesus most people will ever meet. We affirm ourselves as a community of diversity, seeking to provide for inclusiveness as a visible sign of God's continuing reformation of the church.

Church E. Our mission is demonstrating God's love to everyone.

Church F. In response to God's love and grace, through Jesus Christ, we commit to learning, proclaiming, and living the love of God.

Church H. To be a multi-generational congregation in whom individuals and families are being transformed in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

A good example of the difference between a Vision Statement and a Mission Statement comes from the folks at the News Literacy Project.

- Our Vision: All students in the U.S. are skilled in news literacy before they graduate from high school, giving them the knowledge and ability to participate in civic society as well-informed, critical thinkers.
- Our Mission: NLP advances the development and teaching of news literacy in K-12 education.
- Core Values: What we believe – News literacy is an essential life skill. Facts matter. A free press is a cornerstone of democracy. How we achieve what we believe – Innovation. Independence and nonpartisanship. Inclusion and diversity. Collaboration.

October 11.

To All Who Worship at Sandia Presbyterian Church,

On Sunday mornings we are presently in the midst of a **sermon series** having to do with **Generosity**. The Bible teaches us that generous people are joyous people. And being generous involves more than just how we handle our time, talent, and finances. Generosity also has to do with kindness, forgiveness, hospitality, being interested in others, going the extra mile, rejoicing in the good fortune of others, not driving like we own the road, etc. Jesus calls us to be people with a generous spirit.

With regard to money, my hope for Sandia is that we all of us manage our money, or learn how to manage our money, so that we pay our bills, save for the future, and have enough to invest generously in the work of Jesus Christ, what the Bible calls "being rich toward God."

And to remind you about the ongoing life transforming work of Jesus Christ at Sandia, a booklet titled *In Celebration of Sandia's 16th Birthday* can be picked up in Fellowship Hall **anytime from October 20th thru October 29th**. Picking yours up on the weekends, or during the week, will save the church the cost of mailing this to you.

Please read this booklet to see what God is doing at Sandia!

Inserted in the above booklet will be the **2007 Commitment Card**. Based, then, upon your response to the grace and generosity of God in your life, prayerfully fill out this card in areas of :

- Worship Attendance
- Inviting Others
- Financial Giving
- Small Group Participation
- Personal Ministry Commitment
- Praying for Sandia

On Saturday and Sunday, **November 4 & 5**, you will have the opportunity to return these at the conclusion of our worship services on *Commitment to a Generous Lifestyle Weekend*.

In Christ,

Rev. Dewey Johnson