



# Sunriver Christian

F E L L O W S H I P

Covenant Agreement

Ecumenism

*We embrace our ecumenical nature in which several Christian denominations come together to worship as one, united in our belief in Jesus Christ. We respect and rejoice in the differences represented by the various traditions of our members. We do not seek to supercede these traditions, only to work with them within our worshipping community.*

Outreach

*Ministering to those in spiritual and physical need is the most significant element in our allocation of program resources within and beyond our community.*

Spiritual Growth and Education

*Christian education and spiritual development, for both young and old, are vital for the continued health of the congregation.*

**III. MEMBERSHIP**

The Church consists of God and God's people; the people of Sunriver Christian Fellowship are the members of the two constituent congregations and other persons who attend and contribute to congregational life.

- A. In order to become a member of Sunriver Christian Fellowship a person must be a Christian and declare publicly that he/she wishes to worship and participate in our common life in Christ.
- B. All members of SCF are allowed to participate in all congregational functions and to vote on any such matters as may be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting or any other times that a general meeting is called.
- C. Each of the sponsoring congregations will receive members by baptism, confirmation, reception, or letter of transfer. Members fulfilling the denominational requirements for voting membership will be authorized to vote on all matters of business and representation in their respective congregations. Members of the sponsoring congregations are members of SCF.

**IV. STRUCTURE OF THE CONGREGATION**

Sunriver Christian Fellowship has three constituencies, members of the two Sponsoring Congregations and general members who are not Episcopalian or Lutheran.

- A. Each of the Sponsoring Congregations will have ongoing responsibilities to its respective Judicatory.
  - 1. Each of the Sponsoring Congregations will organize in the same manner as any local congregation of the denomination; with a Vestry (Episcopal), a Council (Lutheran) electing from its voting members, persons to serve on those governing bodies.
  - 2. The authority, responsibilities and manner of election of the Vestry and the Council derive from the appropriate constitution/canons of their respective denominations. They will be the official link with their respective Judicatory and will ensure that the

requirements and guidelines of each denomination are satisfied: e.g., reports, elections, representation at judicatory assemblies, etc.

3. The two Sponsoring Congregations will gather from time to time separately, in accordance with denominational constitution/canons, to conduct denominational business, elect officers, etc.
- B. The elected Managing Board will be the governing body of Sunriver Christian Fellowship. A majority of the Managing Board members must be selected from the Sponsoring Congregations. The Judicatories authorize the Vestry and the Council to function in those areas of congregational life that pertain uniquely to the two Sponsoring Congregations. The Judicatories recognize the Managing Board governs all other aspects of the congregation's life.
  - C. The Ministry Team Board, with the leadership and cooperation of the clergy and staff, is responsible for the day-to-day lay ministry of the congregation.
  - D. SCF would welcome the addition of one or more sponsoring congregations to its family. A new sponsoring congregation must be located in Sunriver and be recognized by its national denomination. This agreement will be amended to include a new sponsoring congregation and its Judicatory upon their agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this Covenant Agreement and subject to any necessary amendment of the SCF Bylaws.
  - E. A Sponsoring Congregation may withdraw from Sunriver Christian Fellowship by giving written notice one year before such withdrawal becomes effective.

## **V. CONTROL OF REAL PROPERTY AND FINANCIAL ASSETS**

Recognizing the unity and uniqueness of SCF, each constituency and each Judicatory subordinates its beneficial interest in the real property and/or financial assets of SCF to the common interest and benefit of the SCF Congregation.

Considering the presently unknown facts and circumstances that would attend such events as the dissolution of a Sponsoring Congregation, the withdrawal of a Sponsoring Congregation from SCF, the withdrawal of support by a Judicatory or other events which would substantially affect the covenant relationship, no provision is made for such events or occurrences. The parties to this Covenant Agreement pledge their intent to negotiate in good faith, based on the circumstances then existing, to reach a result that is equitable and acceptable to all parties in the event some such development occurs.

## **VI. SENIOR PASTOR**

SCF's Senior Pastor shall be recognized and authorized to function sacramentally and pastorally by the Judicatories.

- A. SCF will prepare to call a Senior Pastor under the direction and guidelines of the Judicatories of Sponsoring Congregations. He/she will be a recognized and ordained member of one of our two sponsoring denominations and will serve in accordance with the canons and rules of order of that denomination.

- B. The Senior Pastor who is called will be paid a salary and the same ancillary benefits that he/she would receive if serving a congregation of his/her own denomination; e.g., specified contributions will be made to the retirement fund of that denomination.

**VII. STEWARDSHIP**

The same ecumenicity and sense of unity practiced elsewhere in the life of Sunriver Christian Fellowship will be observed in the practice of stewardship as well. Basically, all contributions will be received and disbursed from one central fund. SCF recognizes the call of our respective national churches for tithing, proportionate/sacrificial giving. Each of the Sponsoring Congregations will continue to regularly contribute its proper, proportionate share to its Diocese or Synod.

**VIII. AMENDMENTS**

This Covenant may be amended by the mutual agreement among all parties.

**RATIFICATION OF THE COVENANT**

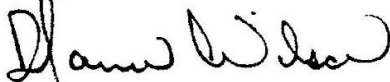
Effective this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Three, we the undersigned ratify this Covenant in behalf of our respective constituencies.



Bishop  
Diocese of Eastern Oregon  
Episcopal Church in the USA



Bishop  
Oregon Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



President  
Managing Board  
Sunriver Christian Fellowship