



# Sunriver Christian

F E L L O W S H I P

Covenant Agreement

## COVENANT AGREEMENT

*The Episcopal Church of the USA, Diocese of Eastern Oregon, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Oregon Synod (collectively the Judicatories) and the Sunriver Christian Fellowship (SCF), an Oregon Non-Profit Religious Corporation agree:*

### PREAMBLE

SCF and its members are committed to a continuing partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon and the Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Church of America. In turn, SCF seeks recognition from those Judicatories and a commitment on their part to support and mentor our ecumenical venture as the sole expression of each denomination in the Sunriver, Oregon area for the foreseeable future.

### I. SCF'S IDENTITY

Neither All Saints of the Cascades Episcopal nor Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran (the Sponsoring Congregations of SCF) were large enough to maintain separate, viable congregations. The two came together as SCF (circa 1998) and have been joined by many Christians of other denominations. Together we have become a viable and vibrant Congregation. The SCF Congregation is enriched by our ecumenical style – a vital, functioning embodiment of our Lord's calling "that they may be one." The SCF Congregation celebrates the many gifts each of our religious backgrounds brings to this ministry and rejoices in the strength thus derived. Therefore, The SCF Congregation has covenanted together to be one congregation in every way possible, at the same time in union with the Episcopal Church, USA (ECUSA), and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and faithful to their respective traditions.

### II. OUR LIFE

SCF and its members are committed to the full life of a local congregation, engaging in common worship, sacraments, and the preaching of the Word. The following are the cornerstones of what SCF members believe about our worshipping community, taken from SCF's Vision Statement.

#### *Spirit of Christ*

SCF is a congregation gathered together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Our members are determined that the life of Christ and the Word of God will guide us in all we do. We will remain flexible in our actions and strategies to follow where Jesus leads us.

#### *A Priesthood of All Believers*

SCF is characterized by an actively participating congregation, which is served by dedicated lay and clergy leaders. The sponsoring congregations, All Saints of the Cascaded Episcopal and Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran, are accountable to their respective national churches.

#### *Eucharistic Centered Worship*

Our Sunday worship is centered on the Word of God and on Holy Communion, open to all, and may use liturgical elements of the Episcopal and Lutheran traditions as well as other denominational elements.

### *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 supersede these traditions, only to work with them within our worshipping community. All our members share in the life and leadership of our congregation.

### *Outreach*

Ministering to those in spiritual and physical need is a significant element in our allocation of program resources.

### *Spiritual Growth and Education*

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

## **III. MEMBERSHIP**

Sunriver Christian Church consists of God and God's people.

- 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 considered to be members of SCF.

## **IV. STRUCTURE OF THE CONGREGATION**

Sunriver Christian Fellowship has three constituencies, members of the two Sponsoring Congregations and General members.

- 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.

4. The Judicatories authorize the Vestry and the Council to function in those areas of congregational life that pertain uniquely to the two Sponsoring Congregations
- B. The elected Managing Board will be the governing body of Sunriver Christian Fellowship. The makeup of the Managing Board will be in accordance with the Sunriver Christian Fellowship bylaws. The Judicatories recognize the Managing Board governs all aspects of the congregation's life.
  - C. The Ministry Teams, with the leadership and cooperation of the clergy and staff, are 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 recognized by its national denomination. This agreement shall 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.

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 an ordained Pastor.

- A. In the case of a Senior Pastor vacancy, SCF shall work with an intentional interim pastor in partnership with their judicatory leaders and commit to following best practices of both judicatories. SCF will conduct a search for a Senior Pastor who is an ordained person in good standing on the rosters of the Episcopal Church, USA (ECUSA) or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) or of any Christian denomination in full communion with either the ECUSA or the ELCA. In partnership with judicatory leaders to find a new Senior Pastor, SCF shall also have the option to advertise outside the judicatories. The vetting of all candidates will be conducted in consultation with the judicatories.
- B. The Senior Pastor who is called will be compensated with a salary and the same or comparable ancillary benefits that he/she would receive if serving a congregation of his/her own denomination. If the called Senior Pastor is not from the two judicatories of this agreement, the SCF Managing Board will negotiate and approve all aspects of the compensation and benefits package.

## VII. STEWARDSHIP

The same ecumenicity and sense of unity practiced in the life of Sunriver Christian Fellowship will be observed in the practice of stewardship giving. All contributions will be received and disbursed from one supervised operating fund. SCF recognizes and supports the call of the respective national churches for tithing or proportionate giving. SCF agrees to provide its proper proportionate share to the Diocese or Synod.

## VIII. AMENDMENTS

This Covenant may be amended or revoked by the mutual agreement of all parties.

## RATIFICATION OF THE COVENANT

Effective this 30th day of July in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, we the undersigned ratify this covenant on 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