

Covenanting Together

Fife and Tayside Pastorate, United Reformed Church

(Coaltown of Balgonie URC, Dundee URC, Dunfermline URC, Dunning URC, Newburgh URC)

and

Kirkcaldy Congregational Church

Background

The desire for the churches to engage in a process of covenanting together is grounded in the conviction that the people of God are called to deepen in communion with Christ and with one another through the Holy Spirit.

The concept of covenant has roots deep within the biblical tradition and embodies principles such as relationship, promise and commitment. The language of covenant has long been helpful to churches, locally and denominationally seeking to grow together in relationship, finding expression in mission, fellowship and ministry.

This covenant recognises the possibilities for cooperation and commitment between the churches, and offers a framework within which to explore the opportunities that will emerge over time. Whilst rejoicing in our shared and differing traditions, we respect the autonomy of each congregation to continue to form and develop relationships with others in their local context.

This process makes evident the reconciling power of Jesus Christ in a fractured world. It expresses our desire to live faithfully under God, as people of the New Covenant, sealed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, who calls his people to a radical change of mind and style of living.

This covenant is freely entered in to, and has implications for the churches. It offers an alternative understanding of how things are and how things could be. Through God's grace, new beginnings are possible for the church and for humankind, and we accept our mutual responsibilities in the fulfilment of this shared commitment.

Our Commitment

This covenant gathers together congregations of people who confess Jesus Christ as Lord, according to the Scriptures. We commit ourselves

- i. to deepen our relationship with each other in order to express more visibly the unity willed by Christ for his church, and
- ii. to work together towards the fulfilment of our mission through common witness, proclamation, service and fellowship.

Declaration of Intent

We affirm our commitment to one another as partners on a journey.

- i. We believe that we are being blessed at this time as we witness the action of the Spirit in drawing us closer together;
- ii. we rejoice in all that we have in common; in our shared traditions and in the richness of our diversity, and recognise that disunity is a hindrance to the church's mission;

- iii. we recognise each other as communities of faith, hope and love, dedicated to following Christ and to serving God's kingdom.

We therefore make a commitment to each other to engage in an ongoing process of growing together, not knowing where this journey may take us, but believing that, by taking these steps, we shall be led to grow ever more deeply together.

Expressing our Commitment

We agree together

- i. to join in common prayer with one another;
- ii. to intercede and care for one another;
- iii. to explore our faith with one another and how it is to be lived today;
- iv. to explore opportunities for shared mission, ministry and pastoral support, including, for example:
 - a. joint worship,
 - b. pulpit supply or exchange,
 - c. pastoral cover, and
 - d. fellowship and social events.

Our Affirmation

We pledge ourselves to continue to explore within our churches the meaning and significance of unity, and the possibilities for further engagement and partnership.

On behalf of our churches we affirm our commitment to this covenanting process.

Coaltown of Balgonie United Reformed Church _____

Dundee United Reformed Church _____

Dunfermline United Reformed Church _____

Dunning United Reformed Church _____

Newburgh United Reformed Church _____

Kirkcaldy Congregational Church _____

Date _____