

COVENANT OF FEDERATION
Good Shepherd UMC and Shepherd of the Still Waters NCD (PCUSA)
June 8, 2004

- I. The following Covenant of Federation is adopted by the Shepherd of the Still Waters Presbyterian Church of Riverside, Ohio and the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church of Riverside, Ohio effective as of the date when each of the congregations has approved the plan by a two-thirds majority of those present at a regularly called congregational meeting with such notice and quorum as is required by the Constitution of each church, and when The Miami Presbytery and the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church has approved the particular federation and this Covenant of Federation.
- II. The purpose of this federation is to provide for the worship of Almighty God, instruction in the Christian religion, and participation in the mission of the church in the world by a federated congregation, which will share the property, real and personal, of the uniting churches and provide for the services of a minister or ministers for the federated church. See paragraph XXIII.
- III. The federated church shall be known as the Good Shepherd Community Church of Riverside, Ohio.
- IV. The federated church shall be subject to the Constitutions of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the United Methodist Church.
- V. The membership of the federated church shall consist of those who were members of the former Shepherd of the Still Waters Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, plus those received by the Administrative Session of the federated church. The rolls shall be maintained separately and reported annually to each respective denomination according to paragraph IX.
- VI. The federated church shall be governed by the Administrative Session. The Administrative Session will be a representative body elected by the congregation from among its members. This governing body shall have the powers of the session. The Administrative Session shall be comprised of an equitable number of members of Presbyterian and Methodist members of the federated church based on current membership. Presbyterians serving on the Administrative Session shall be ordained and installed as elders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). When the federated church is served by a minister member of The Miami Presbytery, that minister shall serve as Moderator of the Administrative Session. When the federated church is served by a minister member of the West Ohio Conference of the UMC, the Administrative Session shall elect a chairperson from the elected body.
- VII. The Administrative Session shall submit its records annually, and whenever requested, to each governing body of jurisdiction.
- VIII. Members of the Administrative Session of the federated church shall be eligible to membership and office in the higher governing bodies of their respective denominations.
- IX. The Administrative Session of the federated church shall report the actual membership of Presbyterian and Methodist members to the respective governing bodies of jurisdiction, and such membership shall be published in the minutes of each denomination involved, with a note to the effect that the report is that of a federated church, and with an indication of the total actual membership. A similar report of church school members, baptisms, etc., and financial expenditures shall be made by the Administrative Session and noted by each involved denomination in its minutes.
- X. The minister or ministers of the federated church shall be full and responsible members of each governing body of immediate jurisdiction and shall be subject to discipline as provided below in paragraph XVII.

- XI. At the time of federation and on the occasion of pastoral transition/pulpit vacancy, representatives from the Administrative Session, The Miami Presbytery, and West Ohio Conference of the UMC shall meet and determine the best possible plan of action in seeking new pastoral leadership guided by the Constitutions of both denominations. For Ministers of Word and Sacrament whose membership lies in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the pastoral relationship with this federated church will be as Designated Pastor, as specified in the Book of Order G-14.0501e.
- XII. The federated church shall cause a corporation to be formed under the laws of the State of Ohio. That corporation shall include in its articles or charter the substance of paragraph IV above.
- XIII. All property of the uniting churches, real and personal, shall be transferred to the corporation formed in paragraph XII above. The new corporation shall be the legal successor of the corporations, if any, of the uniting churches, and it shall be bound to administer any trust property or moneys received in accordance with the provisions of the original establishment of the trust. Pre-existing liabilities from each respective church shall not be causes to levy liens against the property and assets of the newly federated church. (see paragraph XXIII in the case of dissolution.)
- XIV. Trustees of the corporation shall be elected in harmony with civil law according to constitutional provisions outlined in paragraph IV above and as interpreted by paragraph XVIII and XXIII below.
- XV. While recognizing the basic right of any giver to designate the cause or causes to which a personal gift shall go, the Administrative Session shall propose annually to the congregation a general mission or benevolence program which shall be divided equitably among the officially approved causes of each denomination. The proportions shall be as the Administrative Session shall decide in response to the requests of the higher governing bodies.
- XVI. Per capita apportionments shall be paid to each governing body of jurisdiction on the basis of the total active membership of the federated church, equally divided among the denominations involved and subject to the expected calculations of each judicatory.
- XVII. All members of the federated church shall be under the discipline of the governing body according to rules agreed upon in harmony with the Constitution of each denomination where they coincide, and in harmony with the mandatory provisions of the Constitution of one denomination where the others are permissive, and at the choice of the Administrative Session where they may be contradictory.
- XVIII. Wherever the constitutions of the denominations differ, the mandatory provisions of one shall apply in all cases when the others are permissive. Wherever there are conflicting mandatory provisions (except as provided in paragraph XVII above), the Administrative Session of the federated church shall petition the governing bodies of immediate jurisdiction to overture their highest governing bodies to resolve the conflict, either by authoritative interpretation or by constitutional amendment.
- XIX. Appeals or complaints against the actions of the Administrative Session shall be made to one higher governing body only at the choice of the members and all subsequent appeals or complaints shall be in the governing bodies of the members' original choice, and decisions so finally made shall be binding on the governing body and on the members. The governing body processing the complaint will inform the appropriate leadership of the other governing body of the complaint and process to be used.
- XX. Complaints against action of the Administrative Session may be taken under the constitutional provisions of only one denomination, according to the choice of the complainant. Once being complained to one denomination, no other denomination shall accept jurisdiction in the same matter.
- XXI. The minister or ministers shall be subject to the discipline of the governing body of jurisdiction, provided that when one shall begin an action, it shall invite a committee from the other to join the commissioner, prosecutor, or prosecuting committee in formulating and pressing the charges. In the event of appeal, the case shall be finally decided by the highest governing body to which the appeal is

taken in the denomination which commenced the action, and that decision shall be equally binding on the governing bodies of jurisdiction.

- XXII. The minister or ministers shall participate in the denominational pension plan of his/her/their original jurisdiction.
- XXIII. This federated church may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of two congregational meetings, held not less than three months and not more than four months apart, subject to the concurrence of the governing bodies involved. In case of dissolution of this federated church, all property of the federated church, real and personal, shall be divided between the governing bodies of jurisdiction as follows: for each year of federation, the PCUSA portion of the congregation will earn 5% of equity up to ten years, at which time the assets would be divided equally at the occasion of the dissolution of the federated church. Pre-existing liabilities would be owned by the particular jurisdiction with the same provision; for each year of federation, liabilities would gain 5% of mutual ownership up to ten years, at which time the liabilities would be divided equally at the occasion of the dissolution of the federated church.
- XXIV. After consultation with the federated congregation, in accordance with the Book of Order (G-11.0103i), and the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church involved, The Miami Presbytery may dismiss the congregation from membership in the presbytery. Similar action may be taken by the West Ohio Conference of the UMC after consultation with The Miami Presbytery. All property, real or personal, of the congregation may be retained by the congregation or divided between the congregation and the presbytery/conference by agreement among the parties involved, subject to any restrictions on transfer of ownership that may exist in deeds.
- XXV. Should it become necessary to amend this Covenant of Federation, the Administrative Session of the federated church shall call a congregational meeting of the federated congregation and invite respective judicatory officials to attend. A two-thirds vote of the congregation would be required for amendment. Such amendments would be sent to The Miami Presbytery and the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church for approval.