

CRAWFORD COVENANTS 2022

Those who join Crawford Memorial United Methodist Church pledge to support the church with their prayers, their presence, their gifts, and their service. **The Lay Leadership committee and Pastor Anne have developed the Crawford Covenants as a way for members and friends to identify an area of service at Crawford that intersects with each person's unique gifts, enjoyment, and sense of calling.**

These are not committees, and joining one or more covenants comes with no commitment to a certain amount of time or meetings. They are a way for church leaders to understand where church members and associates feel called, equipped, and interested. When an opportunity for service arises at the church, whether for a single event or more frequent service, the covenant affiliations give us a list of where we might turn for help in a given area.

The covenants do not replace current committees or church structures. They are merely a way for the church to offer opportunities for service to people who might especially enjoy a particular kind of task, making us all better stewards of the gifts we have been given. We hope they also can help connect covenant members with others who share their interests.

It is our hope that every member of the Crawford community will affiliate with one of our covenant groups.

As with anything new, the covenant system may change over time as we begin to use it and get feedback. **For 2022, we have identified the following nine covenants for Crawford.** By intention we have not segregated missions into its own covenant, since we believe every covenant should be involved in missions related to its area.

1. **Earthkeepers** (Outdoor activities and ministries) Examples: Outdoor worship help and leadership, the tent, the garden, the firepit, the playground, landscaping, outdoor Christmas decorations, environmental and climate justice, care for outdoor signage and symbols
2. **Harvesters** (All things food) Examples: Coffee hour, food for special events, the micro pantry and other missions involving food insecurity, apple pies at the faire, produce in the garden, church dinners, funeral collations
3. **Guides** (Teaching and formation ministries) Examples: Leading small groups in person or remote, nursery care, Sunday School at any age, special training events, tutoring ministries, leading groups at assisted living or other congregate care facilities, mentoring confirmands, training children or adults in worship roles
4. **SpiritWalkers** (Worship and Music ministries) Examples: Ushers, Liturgists, Acolytes, Greeters, care for altar and paraments, flowers, choir, bells, children's choirs, instrumental music, Laity Sunday help, Lay Servant Ministry, hosting the livestream, serving and/or preparing communion, leading worship, preaching, special music for events, soloist (instrumental or vocal) for weddings/funerals, prayer chain

5. **Weavers** (Ministries of connection and invitation) Examples: Organizing social events, creating new small group experiences, planning retreats, new member orientation, community outreach, invitation to special services and events, Town Day booth, card ministry, connecting people who need care and services to providers, visitation, connecting people to our history
6. **Cloud Connectors** (Tech ministries) Examples: Helping with sound and livestream for worship and other events, advising on technical improvements, helping people who need access to or training in tech to participate in our virtual events and activities, website maintenance and improvement, video production, photography, helping other covenants develop hybrid participation options
7. **Crafters** (Ministries of building, mending, and creating) Examples: Helping with care and maintenance of the building with trade skills like woodworking, masonry, plumbing, painting, electrical work; Building picnic tables or benches, crafting Easter or Christmas decorations, creating liturgical items like paraments, bowls and chalices, sanctuary furniture, banners, paintings or sculpture; making prayer shawls, lap warmers, or baby blankets; crafts for the fair, altar displays for special Sundays, designing interior spaces and displays, maintaining and creating church scrapbooks and photo albums
8. **Prophets** (Justice ministries) Examples: JFON, helping other covenants identify and shape justice ministries within their areas, advising Crawford on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the church, representing Crawford in Winchester's Network for Social Justice, keeping the congregation apprised of opportunities for information and training in the town and with the New England Conference of the UMC.
9. **Councilors** (Leadership and Administrative Ministries) Members of administrative committees, all Church Council members, assist staff with organizing and administrating programs and tasks, help staff prepare mailings, update the church directory, manage signups, church records, help with financial and investment planning, stewardship campaigns, long-range planning, visioning

Please prayerfully consider participating in one or more of the above covenants and indicate your willingness to serve by returning the Covenant Service Pledge to the church as we move into Crawford's future as one body, united in love and service to the world.

Faithfully yours,

The Lay Leadership Committee (Laura Myers, Linda Simson, George DeRedon) and Pastor Anne

[Please record your covenant choices below for your future reference.]