

St. James United Church

September 8th, 2015

Act of Covenanting between

St. James United Church & Rebecca Pike, Inquirer

Minister: Rev. Terrie Jackson
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Music Director: Sophia Werden Abrams

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.



Musical Prelude

Welcome

Introit: *Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary* MV18

Call to Worship: (Responsive)

One: We gather today in the name of the Holy One. We come into the presence of the Spirit of Life. We come seeking to be God's faithful community.

All: We are sisters and brothers in Christ. We come to worship God together. We come open to the Spirit working within us and among us.

One: All that we have and all that we are is God's good gift to us. God's breath gives life to us and to all of creation. God's heart cares for each living thing.

All: Let us worship God, the Maker of all that is. Let us come into God's presence with joy and praise. Let us be glad in this holy place!

Opening Prayer: (together) Holy One, we gather in Your name to celebrate new beginnings. We give thanks for the abundance of gifts in our midst. May we use all of these gifts wisely and well, that we may witness to Your love for the world. Guide our steps in the way of Jesus who calls us to be His disciples. By Your Spirit that is Holy, empower us to live into Your realm of justice and peace. Amen.

Hymn: *Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* 563

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-13, 26-31

Reflection

Hymn: *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* 509

Rev. Terrie: Rebecca has made known her desire to be considered for ministry within the United Church of Canada, and has asked St. James United Church to be her sponsoring congregation.

Laun Shoemaker, Worship & Sacraments Committee, Discernment Committee:

The response of St. James United Church was to set up a Discernment Committee with the help of East District. This Committee met over 12 months with Rebecca. With Rebecca, we sought to discern the movement of the Spirit, Rebecca's call to ministry and considered her gifts and suitability for ministry within the United Church of Canada.

This process is a part of the United Church's candidacy procedures. This year has allowed this Inquirer to consider all the implications and aspects of ministry, and the congregation to make a recommendation with confidence- to recommend and support Rebecca with confidence.

Rev. Terrie: Today we covenant with Rebecca and offer thanks to the members of her Discernment Committee: from this congregation Laun Shoemaker, Jean Thompson, Marilyn Adams, and East District representatives Rev. Denine Morgan and Rev. Ian March-MacCuish.

Rev. Terrie to Rebecca: Rebecca, do you promise to continue fully in this process, so that with the help of the Holy Spirit, your call and suitability for ministry may continue to be unearthed through the candidacy process and further theological study?

Rebecca: I do, God being my helper.

Rev. Terrie to Rebecca: Rebecca, will you allow the congregation of St. James to continue to support and challenge you as you continue to explore a vocation in ministry?

Rebecca: I will, with openness and trust.

Rev. Terrie to congregation: Do you, the members of St. James United Church, promise to continue to prayerfully support Rebecca in the work she is undertaking in your midst?

Congregation: Yes, we do, God being our helper.

Laying on of Hands, Rev. Terrie: Holy One, by Your Spirit, bless Rebecca as she continues to respond to Your call. Bless the Discernment Committee that has walked with her to this place as they discerned her call on behalf of St. James United Church and the wider Church. Bless us all as we seek to find Your Spirit among us. Help Rebecca as she moves forward on this journey. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Hymn: *I Have Called You by Your Name* 161

Blessing and Sending Forth, followed by Musical Postlude