

**COVENANT OF UNDERSTANDING AND AFFILIATION BETWEEN
THE EASTERN OPERATIONS OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERIAN PILGRIMAGE, INC.
AND THE PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA**

I. Purpose of the Covenant

.... Because North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. is organized by Presbyterians with the goal of encouraging fellow Presbyterians and others in their personal spiritual journey for the betterment of all churches....

.... Because the Eastern Operations of North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. offers two retreat weekends each year within the bounds of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina...

North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. and the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina seek to have an understanding and affiliation with each other in order

1. To strengthen, celebrate, coordinate and enhance our common ministry;
2. To foster strong communication and trust between NC Pilgrimage and the Presbytery.

II. History of North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. (NCPP)

The Pilgrimage has its roots in the Roman Catholic Cursillo movement that began in Spain in 1948 and moved to the U.S. in the late 1950's. The idea for a Presbyterian Cursillo in this state came from a brainstorming session by New Creation Community Presbyterian Church in 1987. Thereafter, the church's pastor, the Rev. Frank Dew, began exploring the idea with the Rev. Chris East of Buffalo Presbyterian Church. As the next step, a working committee was formed.

The early Presbyterian Pilgrimage group received help from both the Lutheran Cursillo and the Charleston, S. C., Presbyterian Cursillo. Out of this effort came the North Carolina Presbyterian Cursillo, which formed its own Leadership Council with Fran Young as president, and held its first Cursillo weekend in March 1990. NCPP is now in its 15th year of operation.

NCPP weekends are an experience in Christian sharing and living. During the 72 hours, fourteen talks are presented: four talks are given by pastors, ten by lay people. The weekend also includes chapel each morning, communion, small group discussions, sharing, music, singing, laughter, and prayer. A Pilgrimage is not designed to convert anyone to Christianity. It is meant for those who are already faithful and committed to Christ and Christ's church. Once again, the goal is to encourage Christians in their lives of faith and increase their awareness of grace and service to the church and world. During a Pilgrimage weekend, those who have previously attended are called "The Team," and it is their responsibility to serve guests in every possible way.

In 1997, when Tim Gupton was president of the Leadership Council, the name of the NC Presbyterian Cursillo was changed to North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage. The change has permitted a more ecumenical approach both in allowing ministers of other denominations to serve and in permitting guests from other denominations to attend weekends.

North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage is incorporated.

In 2004, North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage will offer six adult weekends: two at Camp Dixie south of Fayetteville (March and November) , three at Camp Hanes north of Greensboro (February, May and October) and a new weekend near Charlotte in September. Two additional weekends are designed for youth; "Arise" youth weekends are offered in January and September. Since the first event in 1990 approximately 2,000 adult guests have attended these North Carolina weekends; 60 different ministers and Certified Lay Pastors have served as Spiritual Directors.

Approximately 6 to 10 pastors from the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina have served as Spiritual Directors on one or more weekends.

III. Articles of the Covenant

In order to clarify the relationship between the Eastern Operations of North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. and the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, Inc.; to affirm our common purposes; to share our common resources; and to honor our interconnectedness; North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. and Presbytery of Coastal Carolina mutually affirm the following covenants:

A. The Eastern Operations of North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. shall:

1. Encourage all who attend Presbyterian Pilgrimage weekends to apply the teachings and experiences of the weekend in the life and ministry of their particular local congregation.
2. Celebrate our affiliation with the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina by adding to its Eastern Operations newsletters: "The Eastern Operations of NCPP operates in cooperation with the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. To locate a Presbyterian church near you please visit www.presbycc.org".
3. Send to the General Presbyter periodic news of the Eastern Operations of North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. by e-mail.
4. Welcome and invite all Presbyterians and other Christians to attend the retreats.
5. Coordinate the scheduling of the Eastern Operations North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. weekends with the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina calendar as published on the presbytery web site and in Coastal Carolina Connections.
6. Present one printed report annually for distribution to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina about NCPP activities held in the bounds of the Presbytery.
7. See that all celebrations of the Lord's Supper are properly authorized by a church or the presbytery in accordance with Book of Order W.2-4012, W.3.6201, and W-3.6205.
8. Maintain our incorporation as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
9. Express appreciation to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina for its partnership and involvement.

B. Presbytery of Coastal Carolina shall:

1. Welcome the annual report of North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. as information to the presbytery.
2. Encourage members of the Presbytery who volunteer with North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. leadership council or weekend retreat teams.
3. Seek to authorize the celebration of the Lord's Supper for leadership meetings or retreats; if Book of Order requirements are met and North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. leadership requests such authorization.
4. Allow North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. opportunities to promote its programs at Presbytery meetings, at the annual leadership school and other venues, if requested and if appropriate. Including, but not limited to, allowing the periodic distribution of the North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. brochure to the Presbytery at meetings or by mail (at North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. expense).

5. Welcome occasional brief articles from North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. for inclusion in the Connections newsletter.
6. Provide and maintain a link to North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. web site (www.ncpp.net) on the web site of Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.
7. Communicate to the North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc. leadership any concerns, questions or issues that may come to the attention of presbytery staff.

IV. Review of the Covenant

To ensure the effectiveness and value of this Covenant, both parties agree to:

- A. Perform a comprehensive review of this Covenant every three years, with the understanding that modifications may be made during that time if any situation develops that may warrant such changes and such changes are agreed upon by both parties.
- B. This Covenant of Understanding shall be presented to the Core Council and Eastern Operations of the North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage and to the Council of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina for their review and approval at least every third year after its initial review and approval by other bodies, in accordance with their Bylaws and rules of order.

By the grace of God, in recognition and appreciate of God’s gifts, and in order to provide glory and honor to God, the North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage and the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina hereby pledges to uphold the covenants contained herein and to be faithful stewards of their mutual interest. In witness whereof, the duly authorized officer or agent of each has executed this Covenant of Understanding.

Eastern Operations of North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, Inc.

By: _____ Date: _____

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, Inc.

By: _____ Date: _____

Next Review Date: _____