

1 **Informational**

2 **Connectional Covenant**

3 Between

4 _____ Church (Disaffiliating Congregation) and its predecessor congregations and
5 The denomination it joins _____ (Affiliating Denomination) (removed if the church
6 does not join a denomination)

7 and

8 The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey (GNJ) and its predecessor bodies

9
10 We are the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12). While made up of different parts, together, we seek to
11 bring honor and glory to God. While from time to time, the body of Christ divides and multiplies, we are
12 still connected through Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:12-17).

13
14 This Connectional Covenant (Covenant) offers the opportunity for all to honor God, respectfully discern
15 a path forward, disaffiliate and identify opportunities for continued collaborative ministry and missional
16 engagement.

17
18 **Ministries and Missional Engagement after Disaffiliation**

19 Laity, clergy, and congregations are encouraged to continue to share in one another’s ministries,
20 programs, and outreach. This includes, but is not limited to, the following ministries.

- 21 • Seasonal special services during the Christian year.
- 22 • Sacraments, as permitted by one another’s denominations.
- 23 • Presiding at weddings and funerals as permitted by one another’s denominations.
- 24 • Fellowship, Bible studies and outreach ministries.
- 25 • United Methodist Men, United Women in Faith and NextGen activities.
- 26 • Volunteer mission projects
- 27 • Volunteers in Mission
- 28 • Youth programs
- 29 • Pulpit exchanges
- 30 • Joint programs to end the sins of racism, sexism, and exclusion

31
32 **Communication**

33 Honoring one another as beloved children of God, and for the sake of our common mission of making
34 disciples of Jesus Christ, the Disaffiliating Congregation, GNJ and the Affiliating Denomination, and their
35 leadership, pledge not to disparage or undermine one another’s ministries through any internal or
36 public communication media or outlet. (Mathew 28:19, John 13:35)

37
38 GNJ will state the following message in any public information related to the Disaffiliating Congregation

39
40 *The _____ congregation after prayer and discernment has (become an independent*
41 *congregation or affiliated with the _____ (Affiliating Denomination).*
42 *The churches and leadership of GNJ pray God’s blessing upon the _____ congregation and*
43 *look forward to opportunities to serve God together for the benefit of the community.*

1 The Disaffiliating Congregation and the Affiliating Denomination it joins will state the following
2 concerning disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church or GNJ.

3

4 *The _____ Church after prayer and discernment has (become an independent*
5 *congregation (or affiliated with the _____ denomination).*

6

7 The Disaffiliating Congregation is welcome to share its ministry and future vision and mission.
8 In speaking with the press regarding the disaffiliation, the Disaffiliating Congregation is only to
9 use the above statement.

10

11 **Reunification**

12 While we find ourselves in a season of difference, it does not need to define the future. GNJ remains
13 open to the work of the Holy Spirit and future reunification (Revelation 7:9).

14

15 In Christ,

16

17

18

19 _____
Representative from Disaffiliating Congregation

Date

20

21

22

23 _____
Representative from Affiliating Denomination

Date

24

25

26

27 _____
Bishop John R. Schol, Resident Bishop, GNJ

Date

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