**Covenant for Building Use**

**The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York**

*Parishes may complete this Covenant to request permission from the Bishop to use church buildings within the guidelines published by the Diocese at* [*cnyepiscopal.org/covid-19*](https://cnyepiscopal.org/covid-19)*.*

*Completed Covenants may be sent to the diocesan office via email to* [*office@cnyepiscopal.org*](mailto:office@cnyepiscopal.org)*.*

Affirming that God is calling Central New York Episcopalians to live into our shared vision of **a world healed by love,** we renew our commitment to love God, one another, and all God’s creation by:

* Sharing God’s love and hope with our communities in this uncertain time;
* Keeping Jesus’ command to “remember the least of these”--the most vulnerable members of our community--by limiting physical contact and initiating practices to slow the spread of infectious disease;
* Continuing to provide people with the very best pastoral care now and in the months to come;
* Continuing prayer, worship, and formation, whether gathered in-person or online.
* Continuing community outreach ministry where this is safe and feasible;
* Following the diocesan guidelines published at [cnyepiscopal.org/covid-19](https://cnyepiscopal.org/covid-19);

We covenant with God and one another to care for our communities through our faithful response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*(Please provide written responses to the following questions to demonstrate your commitment to upholding diocesan guidelines and requirements for safety within your ministry contexts.)*

1. We confirm that we have reviewed the [New York State Interim Guidance for Religious & Funeral Services During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/ReligiousandFuneralServicesMasterGuidance.pdf):
2. We confirm that we completed the New York State Business Affirmation (available at <https://forms.ny.gov/s3/ny-forward-affirmation>) on this date:
3. We confirm that we have completed a Safety Plan and conspicuously posted it in the church building (view the [NY Forward Safety Plan Template](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS_BusinessReopeningSafetyPlanTemplate.pdf)):
4. We will maintain connection with those who do not gather in-person by:
5. We commit to cleaning and disinfecting our building thoroughly before re-entry and to cleaning and disinfecting common spaces before and after each use. Our plan to carry out such cleaning and disinfecting is:
6. We will ensure that renters and outside groups and individuals using our building uphold diocesan guidelines and the parish’s plan by:
7. We will continue to encourage and invite stewardship by:
8. If someone who has been in the church building contracts COVID-19, we will communicate with our congregation and with anyone who may have come into contact with that individual, while upholding that individual’s privacy, by:
9. We will communicate diocesan guidelines and the parish’s plan to the congregation by:

We ask for God’s grace and help as we faithfully follow Jesus faithfully as a community of love and faith in these difficult times.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Parish and City:** |  |

**Signatures:***By typing your name and the date below, you are signing this Covenant. This Covenant should be signed by the priest (where applicable) and wardens of your parish. If there is only one warden, please ask a vestry member to sign.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Priest:** |  | **Date:** |  |
| **Warden:** |  | **Date:** |  |
| **Warden:** |  | **Date:** |  |