



The Imago Christi Covenant

CRM Spiritual Formation Core Team

Draft Revision April 20, 2006

The Call:

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit” (2Cor 13:14) are constantly beckoning men and women deeper into the community of the Trinity (Jn 14:23, 26; 15:10; 16:15; 17:22-24).

All those who have responded in faith to the call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Mk 1:14; Rom 5:1-2; 10:9) and who recognize their own inability to be “remade in the Image of Christ” (2Cor 3:18; Gal 4:19; Phil 2:5), who long to love God with their whole being (Mk 12:30-31), who desire to draw on the riches of historic Christianity (see 1Cor 10:11; 2Pet 3:15), and so seek God’s grace to mature in the life of the Trinity – let them find strength and encouragement in the life of a Covenant Community (Phil 3:17).

Having responded to the Spirit’s call to personal transformation and intimacy with God in Christ, and discerned a call to a ministry of spiritual formation, let us covenant together as *Imago Christi* to deepen our love and service of God, in order to foster the spiritual growth of the Church and the maturation of its leaders.

We establish this community based upon a Covenant. The Covenant is the common commitment of the Core Team members of *Imago Christi* that will provide the foundation for our life together and our ministry of spiritual formation. Like a “rule of common life” The *Imago Christi* Covenant is a set of disciplines that we practice concurrently and, to which we are held accountable in community. Our individual commitment to a corporate covenant is meant to facilitate our spiritual growth and invites the covenant community (as an expression of the body of Christ) to encourage and strengthen our ability to love and serve God in Christ through the Holy Spirit (Col 3:12-17).

The Covenant of *Imago Christi* is comprised of the following commitments:

1. A Foundational Calling:

- a. Love and serve Jesus as the foundation and focus for our calling.
- b. Uphold a biblical and orthodox Christian faith-stance consistent with the faith statement of CRM.
- c. Serve Our Lord in spiritual formation ministry for the Church and its leaders.

2. A Lifestyle of Personal Spiritual Formation, including a *minimum* of the following:

- a. Develop, write, and share an annual *Imago Christi* Personal Spiritual Formation Plan, which describes my desire to grow in relationship with God.
- b. Live a life of love consistent with biblical principles.
- c. Devote at least a half-hour a day to listening prayer. By “listening prayer” we mean meditation and contemplation that is responsive to God’s leading.
- d. Intercede regularly for the Core Team members.
- e. Maintain a daily practice of reading, meditating upon, and listening to Holy Scripture.
- f. Spend two hours per week in reflective reading and study of spiritual classics, and contemporary spiritual literature.

- g. Maintain and share a weekly journal, reflecting my recent practice of the Covenant, what I perceive that God is doing in me my ministry of spiritual formation, and my needs for prayer support.
- h. Maintain a pattern of personal reflective and silent retreats.
- i. Actively participate in a local church and maintain a local community of spiritual friendships to mutually support our spiritual formation and ministry.
- j. Humbly respect Christians from other traditions.

3. Accountability within the Community:

- a. Actively support the mission, values, vision, and leadership of *Imago Christi* and CRM.
- b. Maintain monthly personal or telephone contact with a Core Community accountability partner, in the context of my Personal Spiritual Formation Plan, disciplines, and weekly journals (accountability partners will rotate annually).
- c. Participate in *Imago Christi* Core Team gatherings (estimated three times a year) and work.
- d. Maintain a posture of openness and vulnerability within *Imago Christi* and strive to form true community where members speak into one-another's lives. In gatherings, I will give myself as fully as possible to the community process.
- e. Maintain active accountability for the covenant to *Imago Christi*, by developing a CRM Role Description with annual goals and submitting a written annual review to the Core Community, to be reviewed by the Leadership Triad.
- f. Maintain regular intercession support relationships for myself and *Imago Christi*.
- g. Participate in an annual Covenant Service for recommitment to the Covenant for another year or to receive the blessing of the group to follow Christ in another calling.

4. A Ministry of Spiritual Formation:

- a. Make reflective prayer an essential part of all that I do, through an intentional "rhythm of prayer" in my ministry.
- b. Focus ministry from the perspective that spiritual formation development in Christian leaders and in the church is central to fulfilling Christ's call and commission.
- c. Reflect the values of participation, community, silence, and personal transformation in both my personal and *Imago Christi* ministry, and in my communication.
- d. Maintain an active ministry of spiritual formation within my local setting, in addition to my ongoing participation in the share ministries of *Imago Christi*.
- e. Encourage the expansion of missional participation in *Imago Christi*.
- f. Encourage the establishment of similar missional covenant communities in my ministry contexts, where appropriate.