



**April 11, 2018
COVENANT**

Dear Gathering Grown-ups,

Sometime soon, I recommend that you turn your attention to developing a covenant with your group. Typically people think of a covenant as a list of don'ts and this list includes things not to bring, like weapons, alcohol, pornography, tobacco/Vape products, etc. and things not to do, like separating from the group, sneaking out of hotel rooms, sex, etc.

While this is one approach, another is to come to an agreement with the youth and adults on how everyone will treat each other, represent the congregation that sent them, and be a witness to the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. This kind of list will often make the other unnecessary. The Official Gathering Handbook (pages 37-30) does a great job of covering what should be addressed in a covenant, and on page 30, I recommend that the covenant be ratified by the Church Council, and I'd even go as far as publishing it in the congregational newsletter so that there is greater awareness and ownership.

Pages 86-90 of the *Official Gathering Handbook* offer Covenant samples and a template.

On a different note, below is an **updated** housing chart. If you need to get rid of hotel rooms, please check the chart below.

- If Church A offers space in a room to a person from Church B, then Church A would list the new person on their hotel registration form.
- Church A pays the hotel for the room, and the churches make their own reimbursement arrangements between them.
- There is no need to notify the Gathering regarding room sharing agreements.
- If two churches want to swap rooms (e.g. a king for a double) and it's a one-to-one swap, email gathering@elca.org with BOTH congregational IDs and the rooms to be switched, and they will adjust your housing assignment accordingly.

CONGREGATION	HOTEL	LEADER	OFFER/NEED	DATES
Faith, Garner	Springhill NRG	Rose Visser, rvisser@hotmail.com	Offer 3 king rms	
One in Christ, Lake Mills	Crown Plaza Galleria	Pastor Bill Peters, pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org	Need rooms — will consider any offer	
St. Paul's, Waverly	Doubletree Galleria	Dani Vogel, 319-352-3840, dani.vogel@stpaulswaverly.org	Offer 1 King Ste, 1 female pillow, 1 or 2 adult female pillows	

Please note that this email is being sent to the Primary Leader of each group registered for the ELCA Youth Gathering from Northeastern Iowa. Please share this email with other adult leaders, parents, and youth as you see fit.

Your Gathering Partner in Ministry,

Pastor Mark A. Anderson