

1 A Covenant for Christian Outdoor Education
2 Between the
3 Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ
4 And the
5 New England Annual Conference, United Methodist Church
6

7 The New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (subsequently referred to as NEAC) and
8 the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ (Subsequently referred to as VC) agree on a working
9 covenant to offer Christian outdoor education together.

10 The covenant will provide a working and programmatic relationship for the two conferences as long as both
11 parties agree. This covenant may be ended by either party. Either party must give the other party written
12 notice at least one (1) year prior to the beginning date of the next summer program season. The provisions of
13 this covenant shall be as follows:
14

15 1.0 OWNERSHIP OF SITE

16 1.1 The NEAC shall remain the sole owner of Covenant Hills Christian Camp, in the town of Cabot,
17 Vermont.

18 1.2 As a contribution to the property development, the VC provided an interest free loan in the amount
19 of \$ 25,000.00 in 1989. In the event that Covenant Hills is dissolved, the \$ 25,000.00 would be
20 returned to the VC, without interest.
21

22 2.0 MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEES

23 2.1 In the NEAC each site committee/board is an annual conference entity relating to the conference
24 programming organization, and the conference board of trustees. The site committees/boards have
25 responsibility to oversee each site locally in a manner that creates healthy site operation. Site
26 committees/boards establish goals and policies, and work toward providing resources (including
27 capital) that enable the sites' ministry to function. They oversee management practices to assure
28 compliance with broader annual conference goals and needs. The site committees/boards do not
29 directly supervise the site director, but provide input regarding their respective director to the assistant
30 to the bishop/director of connectional ministries who is responsible for supervision.

31 2.2 Members of the executive board will be elected by the NEAC in regular session and affirmed
32 by the VC in regular session.

33 2.3 Site committees/boards are exempt from the eight year term limits, but are encouraged to arrange the
34 membership in three year classes.

35 2.4 Effort by the executive board will be made to achieve an equal balance of membership from the NEAC
36 and VC on all committees.
37

38 3.0 AREAS OF PROGRAMMATIC COOPERATION

39 3.1 The program committee will submit the proposed next year's camping events and tentative schedule to
40 a fall meeting of the executive board for consideration and approval.

41 3.2 Volunteer directors will be recruited by the executive director of Covenant Hills with the advice and
42 consent of the program committee. The executive director will seek to maintain a good balance
43 between UMC & UCC participation for both volunteer directors and counselors.
44
45

(More)

3.3 The executive director, the executive board and the program committee will provide training and will exercise all due diligence in the enforcement of Safe Sanctuary (UMC) / Safe Church (UCC) policies, which are denominational programs for the protection of children and staff in all religious programming and at all of our sites.

4.0 ONGOING FINANCES

4.1 The VC will make annual contributions to Covenant Hills. The amount may be determined in multiple-year commitments by the VC. The Covenant Hills Treasurer will submit annual financial reports to the VC Conference Office.

5.0 AMENDMENTS

5.1 This covenant may be amended by submitting proposed changes, in writing at least six months prior to the meetings of the respective conferences, to the New England Annual Conference and Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ.