

# A Covenant and Agreement with the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, and Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center

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## **I. Parties**

The Presbyteries of Whitewater Valley and Ohio Valley are non-profit Indiana religious corporations (i.e., qualified as tax exempt entities under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), operating under the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Advisory Council of Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center (Pyoca) (which is currently owned by The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley) is considering establishment of Pyoca as a non-profit Indiana religious corporation with the encouragement and support of both Presbyteries. It is contemplated that the Advisory Council will transition to function as a Board of Directors, if and when a new entity is established, so when “Pyoca Advisory Council” or “Advisory Council” appears in this Covenant, it is understood to also include the successor Board of Directors.

## **II. Covenant**

The Presbyteries of Whitewater Valley and Ohio Valley and the Pyoca Advisory Council covenant together to affirm our present and historic partnership in which there is a mutuality of purpose and to outline the promises of all parties to each other as the Pyoca Advisory Council pursues establishment as a non-profit camp and retreat center. Recognizing that this is a time of significant transition for Pyoca and our partner Presbyteries, it is anticipated that this Covenant will be revised as circumstances evolve; this is provided for in Section VII.

## **III. The Promises of the Presbyteries of Whitewater Valley and Ohio Valley to Pyoca**

- A. The Presbyteries provide Pyoca an affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and recognize Pyoca as an institution related to both Presbyteries through this covenant. The Presbyteries recognize Pyoca as a Presbyterian-related institution where programs with multiple denominations and/or interfaith endeavors may take place.
- B. The Presbyteries will encourage their pastors and congregations to consider Pyoca for summer camping programs, retreats, and/or other conferences hosted by Pyoca. They will publicize Pyoca camps, retreats, and other programs on their web sites and in emails, newsletters, etc., and will provide links on their web sites to the Pyoca home page.
- C. The Presbyteries will collaborate with Pyoca in planning and sponsoring events each year designed to meet the needs of the Church: these may include, but are not limited to Presbytery assemblies, youth conferences or pastor retreats.
- D. The staff and leaders of both Presbyteries will remain informed about the programs and policies of Pyoca, and will support and interpret its mission.
- E. Each Presbytery will provide Pyoca access to its Council, and will offer Pyoca the opportunity to report at its regular assemblies.
- F. Each Presbytery will name two members to the Pyoca Advisory Council each year through its normal nomination and election process.
- G. The Presbyteries will encourage support of Pyoca through inclusion of financial support in their annual budgets, and will encourage congregations to participate in the financial support and fundraising objectives of Pyoca, in consultation and collaboration between Pyoca and the Presbytery Councils.

#### **IV. An Additional Promise of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley to Pyoca**

The Presbytery, working through the Board of Directors and the Coordinating Council, will at the appropriate time transfer the current Pyoca real property, fixtures, equipment and tangible assets to the new independent Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center for reasonable consideration.

#### **V. The Promises of the Pyoca Advisory Council to the Presbyteries of Whitewater Valley and Ohio Valley**

- A. The Advisory Council covenants to offer staff leadership and physical facilities for appropriate training events, programs, seminars, and related activities, including events specifically designed to meet the needs of the Presbyteries, their member congregations, and their other organizations and institutions.
- B. Pyoca will provide complimentary weekday lodging for renewal and study leave to clergy and youth staff of congregations from both Presbyteries, and will communicate this amenity to the Presbyteries each year.
- C. Pyoca will offer a lodging discount to congregations from both Presbyteries for youth, adult, and family retreats, and will communicate this discount to the Presbyteries each year.
- D. The Pyoca Advisory Council will operate Pyoca according to its Bylaws. Pyoca will provide both Presbyteries an annual financial report along with periodic updates as necessary at the request of the leadership of either Presbytery.
- E. Pyoca, through its Advisory Council and staff, will strive to provide programming and leadership to uphold the historic and present focus of the Reformed tradition.
- F. Pyoca will cooperate and collaborate with both Presbyteries, seeking ways to support them, their member congregations, and their other organizations and institutions.

#### **VI. Additional Promises of the Pyoca Advisory Council to the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley**

- A. The Advisory Council and the Pyoca staff will maintain the real property, fixtures, equipment and tangible assets of Pyoca in good working order and repair, and will make improvements as finances allow and needs require.
- B. During the transition of Pyoca to an independent camp and retreat center, the Advisory Council will not create or permit any mortgage, lien, encumbrance, or conditional sale of property without written approval from the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, or its successor, prior to taking such action. It is anticipated that the bylaws created for the new Pyoca non-profit corporation will include provisions placing limits acceptable to the Presbytery on the amount of any indebtedness which Pyoca may incur and that these bylaws will be reviewed with and approved by the Presbytery.
- C. The Advisory Council will not sell any land and buildings upon the land transferred to it from the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley without approval from the Presbytery's Board of Directors. If at any time in the future Pyoca is formally dissolved, declares bankruptcy, or has a receiver appointed, its real and personal assets remaining after provision for payment of valid debts and liabilities shall be distributed to the Presbytery or its successor.

#### **VII. Review and Renewal of the Covenant**

Recognizing that this is a time of significant transition for Pyoca and our partner Presbyteries, the partners agree to review and renew this Covenant at least every three years, or at the request of any of the parties as circumstances require.