

Covenant and Liberti are growing closer!

We have exciting news to share: Covenant Church will join the Liberti Communion of Churches in 2025. Hear more on November 10th at prayer meetings after each service. After reading this FAQ you are welcome to submit further questions to Info@Covenantdoylestown.org

What are the main points of this announcement?

After a year of careful examination, prayer, and thoughtful discussion, the elders of Covenant Church have voted to join the Liberti Communion. Likewise, the Liberti Communion has voted to accept us into the Communion. Covenant has been participating with Liberti for common mission, pastoral strengthening, and encouragement for a few years now. On February 2nd, 2025, we will celebrate the formal entrance into the Communion.

Covenant remains a full member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). This means we are *dual affiliated*. Most Liberti churches are dual affiliated with denominational membership in the PCA or Reformed Church in America or Acts 29. Covenant will remain a PCA member congregation and participate in regional and global ministry within the denomination and joining Liberti will drastically expand our reach to share the gospel regionally.

What is the Liberti Communion? Where can I read more about it?

The first Liberti church was planted by Steve Huber in 2002. The Communion now consists of 9 member churches who work together for church planting and strengthening, local and global mercy initiatives, and strengthening of pastors and ministry residents. You can read all about Liberti's mission, member churches, and more at www.liberti.org. Recently, Covenant celebrated and helped launch the 9th Liberti church in Bristol under Pastor Kyle Knecht. When Covenant formally enters the Communion, we will become the 10th member church.

How did this decision unfold?

There has been a natural connection between Covenant and the Liberti churches since Steve Huber became Covenant's lead pastor in 2022. Covenant's pastors have attended Liberti pastoral retreats over the last two years. In the summer of 2023, Pastors Bruce Finn and Joshua Bundy proposed a year of exploration in which the elders at Covenant and the Liberti lead team would get to know one another, discuss the details of potential membership for Covenant, and pray about the idea. Elders Al Herman, Bruce McMordie, Matt Jones, Karl Kimball, and Bruce Finn led the exploration process on Covenant's behalf. In August of 2024, the full session of Covenant elders were satisfied that they understood the decision and that it was valuable for Covenant Church to enter the Communion. Covenant's pastors agree this is the right decision for both Covenant and the Liberti Communion.

How does this benefit Covenant?

In many ways, specifically in (1) further strengthening our care and development for Covenant's pastors and ministry interns/residents and (2) in expanding our regional reach for the gospel in Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. Other benefits include quality training for Covenant's officers at the annual Liberti Leadership weekend, relationships for our elder team with other elder teams, and expanded global ministry opportunities through Liberti's global mercy arm. Another benefit is that the Communion churches covenant together to provide care and help in times in of pastoral transition or division amongst leadership. In this matter, the Liberti Communion is better situated to help Covenant than the PCA because of the smaller, highly relational, and continually communicative nature of the Communion.

How does our entry affect/benefit the Communion?

There is a natural benefit in that Covenant's Lead Pastor Steve Huber is also the Communion Director. Covenant is larger than the other Liberti churches and this was discussed at length during the past year. Our goal is to bless the Communion with our

relationships, by continuing to host Liberti Leadership Weekend for the Communion, and by actively participating in the mutual pastoral strengthening, mercy giving, and other aspects of Communion life. Before membership, Covenant gave 1% of our annual budget to Liberti. As a member, Covenant will give 1.5% of our annual budget this year and that will rise to a final ceiling of 2% sometime next ministry year. While our percentage of contribution to the Communion is lower than other churches, it will make a big impact in areas like training ministry residents.

Is Covenant going to experience much change? Will our name change?

Covenant's name will not change, although on or after February 2nd, 2025, some content will appear on our website to show that we are a member church in the Liberti Communion. Likewise, at that time Covenant will appear on the Liberti website. Overall, most Covenant members and attendees will not notice much change in our programming, worship, or weekly life together. We might expect to see other Liberti pastors filling the pulpit from time to time, and some pulpit exchange has already occurred over the last two years with Matt Looloian and Jim Angehr having preached at Covenant and Steve Huber, Joshua Bundy, Bruce Finn, and Rob Chifokoyo having preached at various Liberti churches. Also, Angelo Juliani has led prayers at Covenant over Pentecost weekend. Expect to get to know more of these regional pastors in coming years and be encouraged through their study, preaching gifts, and ministry.

The biggest changes for Covenant will be the benefit of the cohorts and retreats for our own pastoral staff and spouses, the engagement for our elders, and the more effective use of our *Reach* dollars regionally.