

**Dear Church Family Member,**

As we begin this year's Jubilee Covenant Renewal, it is our hope and prayer that you will continue to seek, experience and share God, God's Love and God's Abundant Life. There might be some questions you have concerning the Jubilee Covenant Renewal. To help with these questions, we (The Abundant Life Ministry) have compiled what we believe to be some common questions and our responses to them. If you have a question that is not addressed here, please contact one of us.

**--Q: What is the Jubilee Covenant Renewal?**

**--A:** The Jubilee Covenant Renewal is the period of time (Oct 17 – Nov 14, 2010) that in previous years was known as the Stewardship Campaign. It is a time of worship, reflection and celebration. It is a time of remembering and giving thanks to God. It is also a time when we consider and renew our commitment to the Body of Christ as made manifest in East Granby Congregational Church.

## 2011 Jubilee Covenant Renewal

**Then the father said,  
"You are always with me,  
and all that is mine is yours."**

**Luke 15:31**

**--Q: Why should we reflect on our commitment to the Body of Christ (as made manifest in East Granby Congregational Church)?**

**--A:** The Body of Christ, like any other living body, receives energy (God, love, oxygen, food) that it then transforms into movement, giving, and creating. Our commitment, then, to the Body of Christ has two parts to it:

The first part of our commitment is to *receive* God

The second part of our commitment is to *share* God

If there is an imbalance of receiving and sharing, then the Body will show various signs of this imbalance. For instance, too much giving and too little receiving can cause a body to lose weight and become too weak to be of great use. If we do not reflect on our receiving and sharing, then we cannot consider and respond to whatever imbalance of receiving and sharing we may be experiencing.

**--Q: How do we consider our commitment to the Body of Christ?**

**--A:** When we reflect and observe our commitments to receive and share within the Body of Christ, then we can bring these reflections and observations to God in prayer. We can ask God, **"How am I called to receive from you this year in worship, in Bible study, in generosity?"**

Give God time to answer after asking. And keep asking over a number of days and weeks. It may take some time for the answer to be clear. Also, this does not need to be done alone. Pray with family members and with other members of the congregation. They may hear something that you do not. God speaks to us through others.

**--Q: How do we renew our commitment to the Body of Christ?**

**--A:** Look for the sheet in your Jubilee Covenant Renewal packet entitled, "2011 Jubilee Covenant Renewal Card." It is two pages long and stapled. At the top of the card, you will see a box with instructions and below it, a place to fill in your contact information and your 2011 financial pledge. On the second page, you will see two sets of columns that list opportunities for you to receive and share at EGCC. There are two sets of columns so that couples may individually renew their covenant.

Please fill out the appropriate places on the card based on your prayerful reflection and consideration during this Jubilee Covenant Renewal time. Then place the Jubilee Covenant Renewal Card (both pages!) in the envelope that is addressed to "Bill McGarry." On Sunday morning, November 14, bring the envelope with you to worship, where we will renew our covenant together in worship. If you cannot attend on November 14, please mail the envelope to the church office or drop it off at the church office by Monday, November 15.

**--Q: What happens after we renew our commitment to the Body of Christ?**

**--A:** We seek to live into our commitment! For you, this could mean reading your Bible every day. It could mean attending the prayer group or the yoga class or another group that you feel called to attend. For the Abundant Life Ministry, it will mean equipping and supporting you in the ways you have chosen to live into your 2011 covenant. We will do this by matching the opportunities you chose on the second page of the Covenant Renewal Card with the ministries of the church. Also, in December of 2010, there will be envelopes passed out to you on Sundays after worship to assist you in the giving of your 2011 financial commitment.

**--Q: Is there anything else I should know?**

**--A:** This year for the Jubilee envelope, we've added a 2011 Draft Budget and a letter to help explain the draft budget (both on yellow paper). Please use this as a another way to help you consider how you will renew your 2011 Covenant. Also, there is a blue sheet provided in this packet for your record keeping, entitled "For my records." On it, you will find contact information for Bill McGarry (Treasurer) and for Bryant Waller (Chair of Abundant Life Ministry). If you have any questions, please contact one of them.