



Covenant Agreement

by and between

The Synod of the Covenant and Presbyterian Villages of Michigan

May xx, 2025

The Synod of the Covenant, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (Synod), includes 11 presbyteries, 630 churches, and more than 80,000 Presbyterians in Michigan, Ohio, southeastern Indiana, and north central Kentucky.

Our Joint Hopes for this Covenant

This covenant offers an understanding of the ongoing relationship between the Synod and PVM as agents of Christ's body engaged in caring for older adults and their needs throughout the state of Michigan, joining together to live into the Scripture's call to care for the elderly in their physical and spiritual needs. .

This updated Covenant is in addition to other Covenants that the Synod has with Ohio Living, Brio Living Services and select other faith-based organizations. This new Covenant recognizes existing separate Covenants that PVM has with all four Presbyteries located in the State of Michigan (The Presbytery of Detroit, The Presbytery of Lake Huron, The Presbytery of Mackinac, and The Presbytery of Lake Michigan).

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Mission Statement, Vision, and Core Purpose

- Guided by our Christian heritage, we serve all seniors creating new possibilities for quality living.
- To transform senior living and services, enhancing the communities we serve.
- We create diverse environments, programs, and services where seniors are able to achieve their best possibilities and purposes in life.

PVM's Abbreviated History

During the 1930's, through the leadership, vision, and persistent efforts of The Presbytery of Detroit, what ultimately became Presbyterian Village of Michigan was started. Its first name was

The Presbyterian Home and was later renamed Presbyterian Villages of Detroit. In 1945, the first senior living community was opened in Redford Township, just west of the City of Detroit.

In the late 1970s two additional senior communities were established, one in Chesterfield Township and the other in Pontiac. Pontiac was PVM's first senior community dedicated to serving seniors with lower incomes. During the late 1980s two more communities were developed, one in Holly and the other in Westland.

The legal relationship between The Presbytery of Detroit and PVM ended, by mutual agreement, during the 1980s and PVM was transitioned to being an independent non-profit, tax-exempt, organization.

In early 1992, the Board of Directors formally changed its name to Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, adopted a new governance system with local boards, established a strategic vision to expand communities, programs and services, and began to develop Covenants with the Presbyteries in Michigan.

In the mid-1990s, PVM began serving seniors in Detroit with the development of The Village of Bethany Manor. Since that time, more than ten other senior living communities have been opened in Detroit, making Detroit the City with PVM's greatest presence.

During the ensuing three decades PVM's expanded its geographic reach with developments as far north as Harbor Springs and Alpena, as far west as Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, to Bay City, Port Huron, Jackson, Flint, and many other communities. Several of PVM's developments have been accomplished through partnerships, collaborations, and joint ventures, including with Presbyterian Churches and congregations of other denominations. These communities now total more than thirty.

In 2012, PVM entered into a joint venture with Henry Ford Health to form PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) Southeast Michigan. Subsequently, joint ventures were formed to create PACE Central Michigan (with The Michigan Masonic Home) and PACE Northeast Michigan (with the Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency). These three PACE Program represent PVM's significant commitment to providing home and community-based services to more seniors across Michigan.

Today as a faith-based provider of housing, programs, and caring services for older persons, PVM views its commitments to faith as extremely important to everyone it is privileged and honored to be serving.

Synod of the Covenant Mission Statement

We, the Synod of the Covenant, in partnership with our Presbyteries, Congregations, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and other faith communities, are called and sent by God to be a living, active, and inclusive witness to the love of Christ.

Synod of the Covenant Abbreviated History

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) created its sixteen synods, including the Synod of the Covenant, in 1973. The Synod's predecessor regional bodies, however, have done ministry in

this area since the early 1800s. These predecessor bodies have been involved in ministry with older adults since 1922.

From its beginning, the purpose of the Synod has been to support and resource the presbyteries and churches within its bounds. By 2019, the Synod had affirmed the denomination's commitment to the Matthew 25 initiative, which calls churches and middle governing bodies to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty. In 2020, the Synod began a fresh start, giving the opportunity to re-establish its range of ministries in order to live further into the Matthew 25 initiative.

Our guiding statement is, "In our Synod, we'll try anything to equip our leaders who attend to God's creative, emerging future." We pursue this vision by (1) supporting and equipping leadership for the church, (2) strengthening our most vulnerable congregations, (3) developing antiracist practices and structures, (4) eradicating systemic poverty, and (5) connecting synods, presbyteries, churches, and leaders.

With this covenant, we make the following commitments to each other.

Commitments of PVM

1. Cooperate with Synod and Presbytery leaders, committees, and other organized structures within the Synod concerning common issues of concern that are related to older adult members of Presbyterian Churches throughout the Synod through annual reports and consistent updates.
2. Serve as a resource for the Synod and its various constituents on issues and concerns of older adults (i.e. provide seminars/workshops and other events for pastors, church leaders and other church members on areas of interest in the field of aging, as well as other information that would be of assistance and service to older adults).
3. Communicate with the Synod and its Presbyteries the overall direction of spiritual life at PVM and through its newsletters, publications and other communications identify potential partnerships that might be possible in the future.
4. Where possible, communicate with the Synod, Presbyteries, and churches when public bond financings may be taking place for PVM that could provide an equity/investment opportunity for these groups, as well as for individuals.
5. Pray regularly for the Synod, its presbyteries, and its churches.

Commitments of the Synod

1. Endorse one person from the Synod to serve as a member of the PVM Board of Directors.
2. Encourage Presbyteries within the Synod to assist the ministry of PVM and older adults within the communities, develop mutually supportive relationships and consider shared projects, programs, services, and partnerships.
3. Encourage local congregations to partner with PVM in its ministries and services to support older adults as their need for aging services may arise.
4. Pray for PVM's residents, chaplains, employees, and board.

2/25/25 Draft by Chip Hardwick; 3/14/25 Minor Edits by Lou Prues/Roger Myers; 3/16/15 edits

There is no legal or financial responsibility implicit or required as a result of this Covenant. This Covenant requires approval by the Board of Directors of PVM and the Synod Assembly. It will be reviewed every five years or earlier if requested by either party.

THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGES OF MICHIGAN

L. Andrew Thorburn, Jr.
Moderator of the Synod Assembly/
Corporate President

Rev. Dr. Louis J. Prues, D.Min., MBA, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors
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