



## ***Partner Congregation Covenant***

This Partner Congregation Covenant is meant to provide a high level understanding of what it means to be a Partner Congregation and what will be received from Empower Sioux Falls. This covenant may be renewed yearly.

### **Why we exist:**

Leaders from every area of our city acknowledge there is an increasing number of people in Sioux Falls who are struggling with entrenched, poverty-related challenges ... and as our population grows, these challenges are growing. Empower Sioux Falls has been formed to unite and encourage the Christian congregations of Sioux Falls to become more impactful in partnering with nonprofits, schools, government and others who are striving to help people experiencing these challenges.

We seek to unite congregations and increase the number of Christians in areas of service by broadening our knowledge of how to care for people in these struggles; by encouraging collaborative efforts among like-minded congregations; and by providing coordinated information that will support efforts to assist people in poverty in our city.

We seek to equip congregational leaders and serve as a conduit to connect congregants as they volunteer at existing nonprofits and congregational ministries focused on poverty in Sioux Falls. We desire to not start new ministries unless there is an unmet need and there is general agreement and support by our Partner Congregations.

### **What will Empower Sioux Falls provide:**

- Regular forums for congregational leaders to share best practices and engage in conversation with one another around the topic of poverty.
- 'Blue prints' to assist like-minded congregations who desire to form collaborative partnerships to address needs that exceed the capacity of any one congregation.
- Educational resources to be used in the congregation to equip members to engage in relational ministry with those in poverty in Sioux Falls.
- A website and online database that provides:
  - Up-to-date information on the needs in Sioux Falls;

- Opportunities for congregations and nonprofits to share information on their poverty-focused ministries and how we can engage with them;
- The ability for congregants to create a personal profile of their gifts and service interests and to receive information about service opportunities that match their gifts and interests; and
- The ability for congregational leaders to create reports to help them understand what congregants' gifts and interests are, the areas they are serving in, and what they are accomplishing.

**What a Partner Congregation agrees to do:**

- Pray for the efforts of Empower Sioux Falls, fellow member congregations, and those struggling in poverty;
- Identify one or more member(s) of your leadership team who will participate in education and collaboration opportunities organized by Empower Sioux Falls;
- Promote Empower Sioux Falls sponsored initiatives;
- Encourage members to use the online database to identify their gifts and service interests and to receive updates on service opportunities;
- Communicate with the Empower Sioux Falls network when initiating a new ministry to meet an unmet need; and
- Financially support Empower Sioux Falls with a yearly gift or an in-kind donation of staff support.

**For Partner Congregation:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Empower Sioux Falls:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Empower Sioux Falls is a program of the Sioux Falls Ministry Center**