

## Galileo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

May 2014 • updated May 2016 • Mansfield, Texas

### Covenant of Co-Conspiracy

#### Galileo Church's Mission: Why Do We Exist?

---

Galileo Church seeks and shelters spiritual refugees, rallies spiritual health for all who come, and fortifies every tender soul with strength to follow Jesus into a life of world-changing service.

“Spiritual refugees” are any for whom church has become boring, irrelevant, exclusive, or even painful. We especially welcome LGBTQ+ neighbors and those who love them. Millennials (born 1980-2000) are Galileo's particular focus, and all are welcome.

*“A bruised reed [we] will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick [we] will not quench;  
[we] will faithfully bring forth justice.” (Isaiah 42:3, modified)*

Galileo Church has identified five missional priorities for which God has especially gifted and called us.

1. We do **justice** for LGBTQ+ people, and support the people who love them.
2. We do **kindness** for people with mental illness or suffering emotional distress; and we celebrate neurodiversity.
3. We do **beauty** for our God-Who-Is-Beautiful.
4. We do real **relationship**, no bullshit, ever.
5. We do **whatever it takes** to share this good news with the world God still loves.

#### What are Co-Conspirators?

---

Each year at Pentecost (late May or early June), Galileo Church invites every person in our faith community to consider or re-consider a **commitment to prioritize the church's mission for one year**, from Pentecost to Pentecost.

Since 2014, those who enter this covenant have been called “**co-conspirators**,” as we are experiencing together a delicious sense of being in on the ground floor of God's secret, swelling, inclusive, beautiful reign. Entering the co-conspiracy means that we are actively seeking and sharing **God's subversive welcome for all people** against the grain of our culture. It feels a little dangerous. Maybe it is.

**Co-Conspirators demonstrate their commitment to the church's mission through these seven habits of life:**

- contemplation of their baptism, past or future
- presence, the best you can, at gatherings of the church

- cultivation of spiritual gifts for the life of our church and community
- sharing of material resources to further the church's goals (money, house, stuff, etc.)
- extension of the church's welcome to friends, neighbors, strangers, and enemies
- gracious receipt of care from the church family
- participation in the church's discernment for our next steps together

It is not assumed that every member of a nuclear family will make this commitment together. Co-Conspiracy is an individual decision of each person in our church family.

Most Co-Conspirators are eligible to serve as Church Leaders in any year during which they commit to prioritize the church's mission. See our document "Servant-Leadership in the Conspiracy."

Co-Conspirators may be dually affiliated with another faith community. We encourage transparency with both (or all) congregations in which one is taking part.

### **Not ready to be a Co-Conspirator? Be a Friend.**

---

**Friends are essential to our life together** as a church. Friends, in this context, are those who want to explore, study, eat, drink, share, and serve alongside Galileo Church but do not feel ready to commit to a one-year prioritization of the church's mission. We hope to include many Friends in our number for many years to come. We intend that there will be no distinction between Co-Conspirators and Friends in our daily ways of being together.

Individuals who are Co-Conspirators for a time may decide to become Friends in especially busy or difficult seasons of their lives. People can move fluidly between "Friend" and "Co-Conspirator" from year to year.

Children who are not ready to commit themselves to the church's mission may also be counted as Friends at the discretion of their parents or guardians.

### **Ongoing Conversation**

---

Galileo Church, its Servant-Leaders, and its Lead Evangelist are committed to an ongoing conversation about what it means to be part of this church family. Annual teaching and discussion about the church's mission, as well as the commitments of its Co-Conspirators, should be expected.

### **Covenant-Making**

---

We ask God's blessing as we form commitments to relationships in the name of the one who embodied God's love for humankind, and for each of us. Our collective commitment is a covenant – a set of promises we make with God's help.