

**SEEKERS CHURCH**  
A Ritual of Belonging

This is the Seekers plant, entrusted to the keeping of the newest Steward of Seekers Church. It embodies a tradition begun when the first new member was received into the Seekers Church in 1976, at the time of the New Lands of the Church of the Saviour. The original plant, Swedish Ivy, was a cutting from a plant owned by Russ and Mary Anders, who were founding members of Seekers Church. Marjory Bankson designed and made the pot. The stones and soil that filled the pot and surrounded the plant were brought together by all of the community. The symbols of the plant — growth, nurture, rootedness and journeying — were all seen as part of who the Seekers were and wanted to be.

With the passage of time a new symbol presented itself — death, and enduring life. The soil wore out; the chemicals added to drinking water to ensure safe human consumption accumulated to a level toxic to Swedish Ivy. Fortunately, descendants of the Seekers plant were thriving in many places. So the old plant and soil were discarded, and Emily Gilbert cleaned and sterilized the pot and restored the plant in fresh soil using cuttings from healthy descendants.

Swedish Ivy, like the people who have chosen it as their symbol, requires God's grace and human caring. It needs exposure to sunlight and a thorough soaking when it dries out.

A part of the tradition of the Seekers Church plant has been that each new Steward adds a personal touch before passing the plant on. Since 1976 there have been many small tokens added to the pot by new Stewards. These are now collected in a vase, also made by Marjory Bankson, which accompanies the pot.

(Describe the personal touch being added.)

\_\_\_\_\_(New Steward)\_\_\_\_\_, today we entrust the Seekers plant to your care, and welcome you as the newest Steward of Seekers Church.

*Original version written in 1976  
Revised in August, 1991  
Revised in April 2001*

**STEWARD'S COMMITMENT STATEMENT**

I come today to make my commitment as a Steward of Seekers Church, a Christian community in the tradition of the Church of the Saviour, linked with the people of God throughout the ages. We worship God as triune being. Along with the Disciples, we believe:

- That the Creator -- father and mother to us all, ground of our being -- loves, sustains and calls us;
- That Jesus is the Christ, who calls us to a ministry of love and justice;
- That the Holy Spirit, as the empowering presence and breath of God, confronts and inspires us to do God's work in the world.

We believe that we are all ministers of the Church, which is both universal, grace-filled body of Christ and fragile earthen vessel.

I commit to:

- Be a faithful witness to God's presence among us;
- Nurture my relationship with God and Seekers Church through specific spiritual practices or disciplines;
- Care for the whole of creation, including the natural environment;
- Foster justice and be in solidarity with the poor;
- Work for the ending of all war, public and private;
- Share responsibility for the spiritual growth of persons of all ages in the Seekers Church community;
- Take responsibility for the organizational health of Seekers Church;
- Respond joyfully with my life, as the grace of God gives me freedom.

When I move from this place, I will join another expression of Christ's church.

