**Sermon Notes**

**“Founders Day 2016: Celebrating Ancient Paths”**

Jeremiah 6:16

16 This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

**The Evangelical Covenant Church’s four ministry priorities:**

1. *Make & Deepen Disciples*
2. *Start & Strengthen Churches*
3. *Develop Leaders*
4. *Love Mercy, Do Justice*

**Covenant Affirmations**

1. We affirm the centrality of the word of God.
2. We affirm the necessity of the new birth.
3. We affirm a commitment to the whole mission of the Church.
4. We affirm the Church as a fellowship of believers.
5. We affirm a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit.
6. We affirm the reality of freedom in Christ.

**“But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”**

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Was there any new insight or idea gained as a result of this message?

2. Is the fact that our church is part of a denomination a value of yours? Why or why not?

3. Has your experience within a denomination been primarily positive or negative, and what have been the reasons for this opinion?

4. We live at a time when “new = better.” What other cultural forces or ideas lead us away from “ancient paths” of Christian growth and faithfulness?

5. Which of the ECC’s four ministry priorities personally excite you the most? Why?

6. Which of the affirmation(s) do you believe our church strongly values and expresses well? Which affirmation(s) do you believe our church is weakest in expressing?

5. Are there any values/principles that you believe are missing from the affirmations?