

Christ United Methodist Church Relational Covenant of Agreement

**By GOD's GRACE, we, as the Body of Christ, at Christ UMC
agree to relate to one another in the following manner:**

1. by FIRST putting Christ at the center of our lives, seeking God's will in all things, waiting upon the Lord rather than going before Him, and being obedient to the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 6:33)
2. by doing all things in love, through prayer and following leaders who follow God. (Colossians 3:14; 4:2; 1Corinthians13 and Joshua 1:1-9)
3. by speaking the truth in love, renouncing fear and offering blessings to one another. (Ephesians 4:15, 25-29; 1 John 4:18 and Colossians 3:16)
4. by seeking to understand before trying to be understood, respecting the opinions and views of others, letting go of offenses when we are able and "in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." (Proverbs 19:11 and Matthew 7:12)
5. by listening in love to each other and seeking to understand the "why" as we respect boundaries, suspend judgments and are slow to anger. (Matthew 7:15 and James 1:19)
6. by responding to conflict with empathy, compassion and unselfishness, with a goal of collaboration, as in a "healthy family" (Colossians 3:12)
7. by offering forgiveness and acting with humility, joy and patience, owning 100% of our responsibility and acknowledging and removing "the plank" from our own eyes. (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13; Philippians 2:1-5 and Matthew 7:3-5)
8. by willingly being held accountable by God and one another. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
9. by being intentional and prayerful in our good-byes and in our hellos. (Acts 15:36-41 and John 17:20-21)
10. by avoiding the sin of gossip and honoring and following the Biblical process of reconciliation that Jesus taught in Matthew 18:15-20, which is:
 - a. for the offended to talk one-on-one with the offender
 - b. if not resolved, the offended takes one or two *objective* witnesses (such as the pastor, or a gifted and called peacemaker or someone who cares about both parties and the issue) to help them to restore the relationship and mutually resolve the issue.
 - c. if still not resolved, the offended may take the matter before the appropriate church council (Staff Parish Relations Committee or Administrative Council) for guidance in accordance with Matthew18 and *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.

Revised and Approved by Christ UMC Church Council November 6, 2011