

COVENANT OF THE COUNCIL OF CONFERENCE MINISTERS

Affirmation from Salvation History:

God has brought us out of our isolation;
The Most High sustains us in relationship even in times of strife;
The Holy One empowers us with gifts to serve in our common ministries.

As Conference Ministers, we are called and blessed:

- to be servants of God;
- to represent and promote the unity of the Body of Christ;
- to be a means of connection among congregations, and extending to the many manifestations of the church and to other expressions of faith;
- to preach and teach the gospel, to be witnesses and workers for justice, and to cultivate a climate of hope, faithfulness, and compassion;
- to be advocates for the United Church of Christ.

Grounded in these convictions, we covenant with God and one another to:

- undertake common planning and strategy in fulfillment of the mission of the United Church of Christ;
- take and provide counsel on issues facing church and society, generating strategic initiatives and sharing in pastoral and prophetic leadership for the United Church of Christ;
- pursue the well-being and enhancement of local churches, that they may be equipped and strengthened for ministry and mission;
- give voice to the concerns of the Conferences, on behalf of the local churches that comprise the Conferences;
- support the ministry of each member, and intentionally offer opportunities for strengthening the expertise, widening the vision, and deepening the commitment of Conference Ministers to the life-giving and transformative work of the church;
- promote the active identification, nurture, and call of new and potential Conference Ministers who reflect the diversity of the church;

That we may:

- build the relationships and foster the trust that allow us to be partners in common life and work,
- enhance capacity for God's mission in all settings of the United Church of Christ,
- develop as a body that can provide key and crucial leadership.

To give this covenant life, we will:

- respect and care for each other, our questions and assertions, our struggles and joys, in accord and in dissent, recognizing our diversity as a gift to one another;
- be present whole-heartedly at our gatherings;
- respond to one another when we call;
- value and build up our common life;
- listen with open minds to one another and to our sisters and brothers in faith throughout the church;
- speak the truth, as we know it, in love;
- seek the mind of Christ and the good of the whole church in every deliberation, discernment, and decision.

To keep this covenant alive, we will:

- remind one another of this covenant whenever we gather;
- orient new Conference Ministers to this covenant when they are called, or begin interim service;
- give this covenant to Conference search committees so that they may see and include the CCM context as a component of Conference Ministry;
- communicate this covenant to all settings of the church, as a statement of dedication to walk together in all God's ways.