

Our Life Together – Clergy Covenant

The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church

“Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort in love, any sharing in the Spirit, any sympathy, complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other. Don’t do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus...” *Philippians 2:1 -5 CEB*

We recognize and affirm the covenantal relationship we have with each other as clergy in the East Ohio Annual Conference and the call we have from God, as well as with the people we serve and the world at large to exemplify and maintain the highest standards of Christian conduct. Within that covenant, we agree that each of us shall live into our callings by:

Maintaining spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional fitness

- Practice daily spiritual discipline
- Imitate Christ in attitude and conduct towards all persons
- Observe regular Sabbath
- Participate in retreats and scheduled opportunities for renewal and reflection
- Engage in educational opportunities
- Engage in self-examination and reflection
- Preach, teach, and speak with integrity – giving credit for the ideas and words of others
- Care for physical wellbeing through a balance of work and time off
- Prioritize healthy habits: diet, exercise, rest, medical check-ups
- Maintain appropriate boundaries
- Be diligent in caring for family relationships

Living faithfully within the community in which we are appointed

- Embrace the “Responsibilities and Duties of Elders and Licensed Pastors” as described in ¶340 or “The Ministry of a Deacon” as described in ¶328 of The 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline
- Adhere to the policies of East Ohio Conference as recorded in Section 8 of the Conference Journal
- Equip and Empower laity and staff for ministry
- Honor the confidentiality of all persons, unless otherwise required by law to reveal information
- Appropriately advise and refer persons to other professionals (lawyers, doctors, counselors)
- Welcome regular conversation regarding personal and professional assessment and development

Living within the East Ohio clergy covenant community and The United Methodist Church

- Pray for one another
- Cultivate and maintain mutual accountable relationships with others in the UM Clergy Community
- Live in ways that respect, encourage and strengthen polity, mission and programs so that all persons may be guided toward holiness of heart and life
- Endorse programs, agencies, curriculum and persons that perform duties compatible with the UM Book of Discipline and the United Methodist “Social Creed” (¶ 166)
- Offer affirmation and support to colleagues from their initial response to God’s call, throughout active ministry, until the celebration of their life

Personal Affirmation _____

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Affirmed by BoOM: April 25, 2017

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(Adapted from the Northern Illinois Conference Clergy Covenant)