

First United Methodist Church
Covenant of Openness to the Leading of God

We promise to help create a climate of openness, to receive the visions God would reveal to us.

1. *We declare our readiness to **Let Go.***
We are ready to risk our heritage, our tradition, and our survival, in order to discern the new directions in which God would lead us.
2. *We declare our readiness to **Let God.***
We are ready to be surprised or dismayed, challenged or judged, changed to new ways or confirmed in ancient ways in any way God addresses us.
3. *We declare our readiness to **Consider All Options.***
We are ready to consider any change or sacrifice, any opportunity or cost, even the possibility of failing in this undertaking for the sake of our walk with Jesus.
4. *We declare our readiness to **Focus on Priorities.***
We are ready to entrust the relative trivialities of institutional management to a gifted few, and concentrate our energies on what is truly important about our future and our faith.
5. *We declare our readiness to **Share All Ministries.***
We are ready to free our clergy, and equip our laity, to share equal responsibility for ministry so that all may have time to deepen spiritually and listen for the callings of God.
6. *We declare our readiness to **Stretch Our Imaginations.***
We are ready to listen to crazy ideas, consider the impossible, taste the distasteful, converse with strangers, and experiment with what is non-traditional, so that God can help us to grow and change.
7. *We declare our readiness to **Laugh!***
We are ready to tolerate odd personalities, go to extremes of diplomacy, and offer the maximum generosity. We are prepared to laugh at ourselves, and laugh with each other. We are eager to try, fail, learn, and try again.

Signature

Date