

A Covenant for The United Methodist Church as a Worldwide Church

United Methodist churches throughout the world are bound together in a connectional covenant in which we support and hold each other accountable for faithful discipleship and mission. Integrally holding connectional unity and local freedom, we seek to proclaim and embody the gospel in ways responsible to our specific cultural and social context while maintaining “a vital web of interactive relationships.” Through a worldwide covenant relationship, we also carry out our missional calling beyond national and regional boundaries.

In order for our connectionalism to be a living practice, the worldwide nature of The United Methodist Church needs to be carried deep into the life and mission of our local congregations so as to become integral to our identity and calling. Only when we commit ourselves to worldwide interdependent partnerships in prayer, mission, and worship, connectionalism as the Wesleyan ecclesial vision can fully be embodied. Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, United Methodist churches throughout the world are thus called to enter afresh into a covenant of mutual commitment—based on shared mission, equity, and hospitality.

1. In covenant with each other, we affirm our unity and take courageous steps to live more fully into what it means to be a worldwide church in mission to the world.
2. In covenant with each other, we will do our utmost to understand, respect and value the diversity of ethnicity and culture in our denomination, and we commit ourselves to mutual love, respect and trust.
3. In covenant with each other, we see each other as partners in ministry recognizing our gifts, experiences and resources as of equal value be they spiritual, financial or missional.
4. In covenant with each other, we commit ourselves to strive for full equality in our relationships, structures and responsibilities for the denomination.
5. In covenant with each other, we enter afresh into a relationship of mutuality, creating a new sense of community and intentionally living out our worldwide connection in mission to the world.

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