

HOLY COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEEK GOD • LOVE ALL PEOPLE • CHANGE THE WORLD

Joining Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

While we welcome all people to participate in the worship, programs and mission of Holy Covenant, we invite those who seek a deeper commitment to Jesus Christ and to this community to consider membership. This is not just a ritual; members promise to support the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

All Are Welcome

We welcome all persons to membership, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic condition or any other human category.

How to Join

- * New members may join at any worship service (9:30, 11:15, 7pm) after contacting the pastor.
- * Members of another United Methodist church or other Christian denomination may join by transferring their membership and taking the vows of membership at Holy Covenant during a worship service.
- * Those who are joining a church for the first time join by Confession of Faith. This means that in addition to the membership vows, the pastor will also ask the new member a series of ancient questions about faith in God and Jesus Christ.
- * Those joining by Confession of Faith who have not been baptized will first be baptized during the service.

What are the membership vows?

*Those joining by Confession of Faith will answer the following questions:

On behalf of the whole church, we ask you:

Do you truly and earnestly repent of your sins?

Do you believe in God the Creator, maker of heaven and earth?

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Do you receive the Holy Spirit, the giver and sustainer of life?

Do you profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to keep God's holy will and Commandments,

and to walk in the same all the days of your life as a faithful member of Christ's holy church?

I do.

*All those joining will be asked to reaffirm the vows made at their baptism: *Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? I do.*

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? I do.

*All those joining will be asked to support Jesus Christ through Holy Covenant and The UMC:

*As members of Christ's universal church,
will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?*

I will.

*As members of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers,
your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?*

I will.

The Five Promises

Prayers

Whether together in worship or alone during the week, we ask our members to pray for each other, for the sick or for those in pain. We also pray for our church, our pastor and staff, our families and all those inside and outside our doors. We stand in the need of prayer. Just as you pray for this community, this community will be praying for you.

Presence

We expect members to attend weekly worship services when they are in town and not ill. Members are also strongly encouraged to join a small group. Regular presence in worship and in the life of the church is a key way for us to show that our faith is a priority in our lives.

Gifts

All of our gifts come from God, and we are called to joyfully give them back to God through community. As a member, you are invited to share your gifts of leadership, music, talent, and service in addition to financial gifts. Giving from the congregation funds 100% of the church's ministries. We ask members to make a financial pledge upon joining and to update it each year during the fall or when their financial situation changes. With our online giving form, members may enroll their bank account or credit card for weekly, monthly or quarterly automatic donations to our operating fund, building fund and Dignity Diner.

Service

We offer many opportunities for service during Sunday worship and throughout the week. We encourage members to volunteer their time and serve the church and their community. We ask members to take a survey of their gifts so we can match them with service opportunities that take advantage of their unique skills and interests.

Witness

We ask members to share their story—to speak or write about how their lives have been changed. We include witness in our worship services and in our communications because these changes in our lives are real. If Holy Covenant, and Jesus Christ, have made a difference in your life, we call you to share this with others so their lives may too be transformed.