



## **Being Christ Church – Our Identity and Calling**

### **Our Legacy:**

Our church was formed by the union of two smaller churches in the Mountain Top area in 1960. The original building underwent an extensive expansion project in 1981 to support the growth of the congregation.

Our ancestor churches, the Mountaintop and Albert congregations, were formed to offer Christ to the growing community on the mountain. Their union was strategic, focused on being better together at sharing Christ with our neighbors. Today, we continue the story of growing in faith, of looking to the future with hope, and of impacting our community and region with the grace and joy of Jesus Christ – all while maintaining the rich legacy of faithfulness and mission from the past.

### **Mission Statement:**

Christ United Methodist Church exists to honor God and to **make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.**

A disciple is a follower, not someone who has “arrived.” The Greek term for “make a disciple” is the same as “be/become a disciple”. Making more disciples implies becoming disciples together, sharing the journey with integrity and respect.

### **The Shape of Ministry and Discipleship:**

From the primitive church described in the book of Acts to the origins of Christ United Methodist Church 140 years ago, discipleship was shaped by Worship, Community (Groups), and Mission. These overlapping realms remain the basic arenas for the spiritual formation of followers/disciples of Jesus Christ today. While the journey may begin at any point, at Christ United Methodist Church, we urge everyone to live out their discipleship in all three areas.

### **Spirituality:**

The ancient monastics identified the three perennial areas of human struggle as wealth, sex, and power. The monastic vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience were an effective way to directly address these

issues; but these vows were only for monastics. We apply this ancient wisdom by calling disciples to a spirituality characterized by generosity, fidelity, and integrity. Giving is the number one antidote to the idolatry of wealth. Faithfulness is the biblical design for sexual pleasure and fulfillment. And, being real allows us to respect and honor both the self and others. Generosity, fidelity, integrity. Giving, faithful, real.

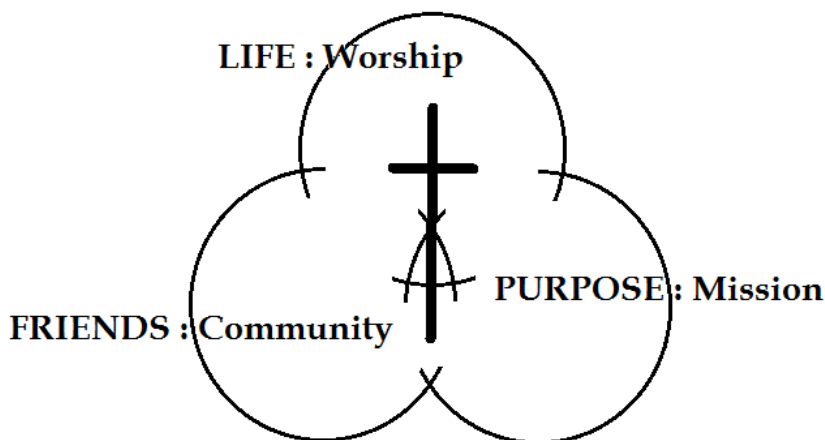
### **Reconciliation:**

“So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:23-24).

There are bound to be differences between us, there are bound to be hurts of many kinds. But we are called to deal with the sins we commit against each other not with gossip or spite but with reconciliation. In worship we exchange the peace of Christ. When we celebrate Holy Communion we declare, “In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!” In Matthew 18:15-35, we receive a practical process for reconciliation. The first step is private, the second step (if necessary) involves a witness, and the final step involves the leaders of the church. In all cases, the objective is forgiveness and reconciliation.

### **Membership:**

The vows of membership begin with the vows of the baptismal covenant (including the Apostles’ Creed) and the membership promises. In addition, members are asked to embrace discipleship formed in worship, community, and mission; the mission statement of Christ United Methodist Church; a giving, faithful, and real spirituality; and reconciliation as the way to guard unity.



## **THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT**

Anyone interested in formally committing themselves to the life of Christ United Methodist Church as a member is asked to be prepared to make the following vows their own. The language of these vows is drawn from the rich tradition of The United Methodist Church and its roots in older Christian movements.

### **Baptismal vows (renewal of 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.**

### **The profession of faith (the Apostles' Creed):**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

**General membership vows:**

According to the grace given you,  
will you remain faithful members  
of Christ's holy church  
and serve as Christ's representatives  
in the world?

**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.**

**Membership with Christ United Methodist Church:**

Do you commit yourself to discipleship  
in the connected spheres  
of worship, community, and mission?

**I do.**

Do you accept  
the mission of Christ United Methodist Church  
as your own?

**I do.**

What is it?

**Making disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.**

Do you commit yourself to consistent growth  
in a spirituality characterized as  
giving, faithful, and real?

**I do.**

Do you commit yourself to the practice of reconciliation to guard the unity  
of this congregation?

**I do.**