

COVENANT OF OPENNESS AND AFFIRMATION

“Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” I Peter 3:8

We recognize that scripture calls us “to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.” (Micah 6:8)

We cherish the Golden Hill congregation’s tradition of enlarging the community of faith by welcoming all who come to worship God and by supporting one another in our journey of faith.

We celebrate our mission to serve Christ in the city and the world as a unique, diverse and dynamic Christian community through members who are ambassadors for Christ.

Nonetheless, we acknowledge that some churches, including the United Methodist Church, have sanctioned discrimination. This created a climate which fosters the fear and hatred of many groups of people considered to be different including our gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender brothers and sisters, causing them physical, emotional and spiritual pain.

Therefore, Golden Hill United Methodist Church, as a faith community, covenants with God to be open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, thereby providing a safe physical, emotional and spiritual haven.

Furthermore, we affirm each individual as a child of God and celebrate the uniqueness of each person including his or her race/ethnicity, culture, economic reality, gender, age, physical/mental ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

Finally, we commit ourselves to work towards ending ignorance, fear, hatred, prejudice and discrimination against people considered to be different, including our lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender sisters and brothers.

We pray for God’s love, forgiveness and power as we struggle to do God’s will.