

# CHURCH LEADERSHIP COVENANT

The covenant that follows offers us goals that are in keeping with the values and teaching of our faith. They give us a way to talk about the behavior and practices we adopt in our work together as leaders who wrestle with change and with differences.

These covenantal behaviors are offered to leaders not as constraining prohibitions, but as spiritual habits for our leadership community.

## **Our Covenant with God ...**

*We covenant to pray, alone and together, to thank God and to ask for God's help in our lives and in our work for our church, and we covenant to listen to God's answer to us.*

## **Our Covenant with our Matthews United Methodist Church Family ...**

*We covenant to demonstrate our leadership and commitment to our church by our positive example.*

*We covenant to faithfully worship with the community of faith called Matthews United Methodist Church.*

*We covenant to embrace tithing and generosity in our living and giving.*

*We covenant to support our church's pastors and staff so that their efforts can be most fruitful.*

*And we covenant to try to discover what is best for our church as a whole.*

## **Our Covenant with Each Other as Spiritual Leaders ...**

*We covenant to respect, care, and pray for each other.*

*We covenant to treat our time as an opportunity to make an important gift to our church.*

*We covenant to listen with an open, non-judgmental mind to the words and ideas of others in our church.*

*We covenant to discuss, debate, and civilly disagree openly in meetings, expressing ourselves as clearly and honestly as possible, so we are certain that our point of view is understood.*

*And we covenant to support the final decision of the Council, team or committee, whether or not it reflects our view or opinion.*

## OUR RULE OF LIFE

One ancient practice used by communities of Christians for almost 2000 years is called a Rule of Life. The meaning of the word "rule" comes from the Greek word for "trellis." A trellis is a tool designed to enable a grapevine to get off the ground and grow upward, becoming more fruitful and productive. In the same way, a Rule of Life can be the trellis that helps us abide in Christ and become more spiritually fruitful.

What follows are seven time-tested, biblically-grounded spiritual practices for leaders:

1. I will practice a **persistent pattern of prayer**. My relationship with God in prayer is at the center of everything I say and do.
2. I will maintain a daily practice of **study and reflection with the Bible**. I am constantly looking for the way the Bible speaks to me.
3. I will use the **gifts God has given me to serve others** as my way of participating in God's transformation of the world.
4. Because God loves people enough to give his Son for them, I will love people enough to **invite them to experience God's love** and become disciples of Jesus.
5. I will live out my discipleship **with other disciples** who support me and hold me accountable for my continued growth.
6. I will **worship weekly** in the gathered congregation of followers of Jesus. It takes priority on my calendar. It sets my direction for the rest of the week.
7. I will **practice the biblical discipline of tithing**, giving the first 10% of my income to God's work as the starting point of my life of generosity.

These seven spiritual practices, this Rule of Life, places us in a position of spiritual growth and transformation. Becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus does not happen without these spiritual practices. Each of the elected leadership positions and ministry areas are grounded in these seven spiritual practices.