



GATHERING OF MEN

CREEDS AND COVENANTS

The Gathering of Men offers opportunities to men of all ages (out of high school and older), from all backgrounds and experiences, no matter where you stand in your faith journey or beliefs, to participate in and help shape the faith community of men at Meridian Street United Methodist Church.

At the inaugural retreat of the Gathering of Men held October 19 and 20, 2013, a group of 27 men, with a good mix of age, faith experience and leadership demographics, discussed 5 key SHIPs of a healthy faith community: fellowSHIP, discipleSHIP, leaderSHIP, stewardSHIP and worSHIP. From our discussions, fueled by prayer and lead by the Spirit, the group developed the Creeds and Covenants of the Gathering of Men set out below. We also recognize that, like our faith, these may evolve as prompted by further insight and inspiration that may come from traveling, hand to shoulder, on our shared journey as Christian men.

CREEDS AND COVENANTS

The Creeds of the Gathering of Men come from "I Believe" statements on each of the SHIPs developed in community and conversation. Our Covenants set out our commitments to act out our Creeds.

FellowSHIP

Our Creed – We Believe

FellowSHIP is necessary for a faithful community and for the individuals in that community.

FellowSHIP involves invitations to be in community.

FellowSHIP requires inclusion of the stranger, of those who would not otherwise be attractive to us.

FellowSHIP is an intentional process.

Our Covenants

We will be in covenant and in connection with each other.

We will develop better relationships with those in our faith community.

We will introduce and open ourselves to those not known to us.

We will serve those known to us and who become known to us.

We will honor our faith mentors.

We will manage our precinct.

We will support, encourage and inspire those taking the next step in their faith and life journey.

We will witness to our other communities by our words and deeds.

DiscipleSHIP

Our Creed – We Believe

Through DiscipleSHIP, we live Christ into this world.

DiscipleSHIP requires personal integrity in responding to the call.

DiscipleSHIP expects intentional modeling of Jesus in this world.

DiscipleSHIP requires fortitude and submission.

We are equipped and have the capacity to be faithful disciples.

Our Covenants

We will listen to the voice of God we hear and trust what we hear.

We will be patient with God, with ourselves and with others.

We will help others discover that they too are equipped to be faithful disciples.

We will invite others into our faith life and faith community.

We will honor our humanity and their humanity.

We will tell God's story and share our story.

We will be open to friendship and will be a friend.

We will harmonize our private life and public life and live each as we do the other.

We will go where we are sent, do what we are called to do and become what we are called to become.

LeaderSHIP

Our Creed – We Believe

Leaders serve as a conduit from God to his people.

Leaders set the example for the faith community.

Leaders empower, enable and teach their fellow members.

LeaderSHIP requires awareness of the needs of the flock and a response to those needs with empathy and sympathy.

Leaders acknowledge their own humanness.

Leaders cast the vision for the community, communicate that vision and inspire the community members to live into that vision.

Leaders care about the community and its members and the journey they are on and helps the community move forward on that journey.

Every member of the faith community can be a leader and will be a leader to others in our community.

Our Covenants

We will make decisions guided by God's vision for our community and by his values.

We will communicate God's vision for our community.

We will seek the wisdom to lead and to know when to nurture and when to guide.

We will be lovingly honest with and mentor others in our faith community.

We will identify the next leaders and help them develop through mentoring and empowerment.

We will expose ourselves to the consequences of leadership.

We will be humble in our leadership journey.

StewardSHIP

Our Creed – We Believe

StewardSHIP is required by our God of those who live as His children.

StewardSHIP is the living out of our pledge as members of Meridian Street United Methodist Church, and as men of faith, to support our church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness.

We have an obligation to support and invest in the mission and vision of our Church, as the embodiment of the communal decision on how we can actively live out our faith and affirm the Kingdom of God as an active presence in our families, our neighborhoods and our world.

StewardSHIP is the responsibility of every person, every day.

StewardSHIP provides one opportunity to serve as Jesus' emissaries in our world.

We have the capacity to respond to His requirements of us.

StewardSHIP is a personal obligation and a personal decision.

StewardSHIP embodies the care for that which is not ours.

Our Covenants

We will tend to God's creation and his created.

We will give from what we have of time, talent and treasure.

We will give joyfully, sacrificially and humbly.

We will honor all of our responsibilities and commitments as men of faith.

We will prioritize and re-balance our focus to recognize what others need from what we want.

We will be stewards of all parts of our life.

We will live in kindness and out of love.

We will act, knowing that our salvation is not dependent on works but that our salvation is empty without works.

Each of us will hold ourselves accountable, and we as a community will hold our brothers accountable, to our covenants.

WorSHIP

Our Creed – We Believe

WorSHIP is honoring and worshipping God.

WorSHIP is an essential front door to a faithful community.

WorSHIP is a conversation with God.

WorSHIP fills our soul's emptiness.

WorSHIP prepares us for the future with reflection on the past.

WorSHIP expects active and conscious participation and not passive receptivity.

WorSHIP is a path to the community's future.

WorSHIP should be part of our life every day.

Our Covenants

We will be actively present in worship.

We will be open to the touch of God in our daily worship.

We will be reverent.

We will model an active participation in worship and seek worship models.

We will be open to the call to be a conduit for God to his world.

We will encourage and support our pastors and other worship leaders.

We will live in awe of God's creation and his created and with an awareness of the presence of God in our daily lives.

We will worship authentically and with genuinicity.