

Relational Covenant for South River UMC, Woodleaf, NC

September 9, 2013

Each member of the Body of Christ is a valued and important part of the mission and ministries of South River United Methodist Church. To honor and protect the integrity of our mission and relationships, we commit to relate to one another in the following manner:

- To always keep God's will as our primary focus
- To make every effort to provide accurate information to aid the decision-making process
- To speak only for ourselves, speaking the truth in love, with compassion, respect and honesty
- To listen with open hearts and open minds being deliberate in our efforts to understand each other
- To allow the Golden Rule – “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you,” or as Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself” – to guide our discussions
- To practice forgiveness and reconciliation as Jesus taught us (Matthew 18: 15-20), including apologizing when needed, and move on. We believe it is acceptable to agree to disagree with love and respect
- To be willing to compromise to achieve God's will for our church
- To work to build up trust and confidence in each other
- To not allow others to use bullying tactics to disrupt the process of discerning God's will for our church
- To attempt to build up one another and not tear down others by gossiping or being judgmental
- To be welcoming, helping all feel a sense of belonging demonstrating happiness and gratefulness for our faith journey at South River UMC
- To work to achieve God's purpose by focusing on current issues not on past events
- To keep the main point as what is best for our church instead of what might be best for individuals
- To recognize that all people have gifts and talents and that our diversity is our strength
- To be willing to accept decisions made in this process
- To remember our purpose and mission in Christ as we work to achieve solutions and to build up the kingdom of God
- To agree to use the process for healing, to discern God's will, and to glorify God
- To practice actively this relational covenant at all times, within the sacred space of our church, in our community, homes, workplaces, and hearts