

Annual Conference Covenant Background

The desire for a Covenant for use during our 2015 Annual Conference, was originally envisioned by Bishop Ken Carter and affirmed in the context of the Conference Table. A task team, comprised of a small clergy-laity group, drafted the covenant, which was reviewed, discussed, edited and affirmed by the Florida Conference Cabinet and other leaders.

The online document was affirmed by those attending the 2015 Annual Conference in its opening plenary session and shared as we began our work each day. The Covenant reflected our deep desire to respect one another and our different perspectives as we engaged in our work during Annual Conference. The Covenant invited each of us to take primary responsibility for the spirit of our discourse and to honor the faithful work of electing delegates to General Conference, as well as the other important work of Annual Conference proceedings.

We are grateful for the rich foundation for this Covenant which has been provided by our Beloved Community initiatives and the Florida Conference Standing Rules.

2015 Annual Conference Covenant

During this time of Holy Conferencing and Elections:

Behavior

1. I will respect your value and your voice in our community
2. I will endeavor to build bridges that liberate, equate, and unite us, as we are all persons of worth whose voices are important
3. I will be open to the perspectives of others allowing for disagreement, and honoring individuals as a reflection of our strength and diversity
4. I will not shame, blame or attack others

Elections/Voting

5. I will be accountable for my actions and reactions
6. As a member of the Annual Conference I commit myself to being open to the call of God upon the lives of people who represent the diversity and strength of the local congregations of the Florida Annual Conference.*
7. I will seek to elect those who are astute, wise, and trustworthy.

**Standing Rules, Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Par.
424.2.c.*