

Heartland Conference, Northwest Ohio Association UCC (Values/Covenant Statement)

Adopted by NWOA Cabinet - January 23, 2021

Why Statement:

Together in Christ's love, we collaborate to reconcile and restore all God's creation.

Calling Statement:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are called to connect, equip and support our faith communities to grow as faithful disciples and responsible stewards, following Jesus' call to extravagantly love all God's children and creation.

Heartland Conference Covenant Statement

Answering God's call to build a just world for all, we commit in our shared life to:

- **Live the love, unity and compassion of Jesus**
 - *"I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."* (John 17:26)
- **Collaborate to mutually share resources.**
 - *"...love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers".* (Romans 12:10-13)
- **Communicate with openness and transparency.**
 - *"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ..."* (Ephesians 4:15)
- **Empower generous and responsible stewardship.**
 - *"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share."* (1 Timothy 6:18)
- **Honor God's diverse gifts among us in all settings.**
 - *For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, **5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.* (Romans 12:4-5)

Covenant in Litany Form

Our shared journey of faith leads us to grow in mutual love
Respect each one's place on their journey of faith
Extend an extravagant welcome to all
Nurture the unity of the One Spirit
Across all settings we offer our diverse gifts in building God's kin-dom here and now!
We seek to promote responsible stewardship and sharing of resources
Which calls us to reach out across the Heartland and to our ecumenical partners
As we seek to extend God's love and justice throughout all creation

Covenant Statement in Prayer form

God of Love, our common journey of faith leads us to continue to grow in mutual love. Help us respect each one's place on the journey of faith, while we live into our commitment to be active agents of social justice. Guide us to extend an extravagant welcome to all as we ourselves are nurtured in the unity of the One Spirit across all settings. Offering our diverse gifts in building God's kin-dom here and now, we seek to promote responsible stewardship and sharing of resources which calls us to reach out across the Heartland and to our ecumenical partners. This we seek as we embody God's healing love throughout all creation. Amen.