

Fellowship Covenant

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

New Bedford, MA



We are called together for worship, fellowship and service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our primary purpose is to love God, ourselves and one another. To this end, we celebrate our diverse Christian family, affirming every person regardless of their age, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities, ethnicity, and economic status.

We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, believing that we cannot enter into a “Covenant of Relationship” without honoring all the faith and fellowship relationships that make us who we are, the Body of Christ. Together, we celebrate Christ as our Head and the gifts of all of our members.

We recognize that diversity in the faith community that is Christ’s Body is essential to the wellbeing of the whole people of God. We seek unity in Christ, but not conformity in faith expression or practice. We welcome the challenges inherent in such an eclectic community because we believe that being open to one another, affirming one another’s faith and seeking to genuinely know and sincerely care for one another brings us into a closer relationship with the One who gives us life, loves the whole creation and is our hope and salvation.

Seeking to know God more completely, to walk ever closer with our Savior, we invite the Holy Spirit to be the light upon our path and covenant with one another as sisters and brothers in Christ:

- **We will remember that the things we do here as individuals and as a community are part of the spiritual life of our congregation.**
- **We will treat each other with the love of Christ.**
- **We will receive all ideas as important and worth considering.**
- **We will honor our actions and one another with respect.**
- **When talking about events or issues, we will seek words and sentences that describe the situation and try not to use words that reflect our personal opinions or judgments.**
- **We will try to avoid collective words such as "some people" or "everyone." Using the word "I" frequently will help us express our own experience and understanding.**
- **We will recognize and respect opinions different than our own; we can listen to understand and disagree without being disagreeable.**
- **We will agree on a process and, in covenant, we will all work together as the Body of Christ to**
- **We will expect all information shared to be open and honest, including the names of persons affected, except in the rare case where confidentiality is truly required.**