



Marvin United Methodist Church Membership Covenant of Understanding

In your Baptism, you were initiated into Christ's holy church. You were incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. ¹ In Baptism you were marked as a child of God, your sins washed away, and you were made a new creation in Christ. This is all a gift from God that cannot be earned. Remember your Baptism and be thankful.

As you consider becoming a member of Marvin United Methodist Church, we encourage you to continue to live out your Baptism every day by repenting of your sins, resisting evil, and fully committing your life to Christ as your Lord and Savior by the help of the Holy Spirit.

God created the church to be an expression of the sacrificial love we find in Jesus Christ. As the church, the people of God reach out as the Body of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, the church equips the saints to go out into the world to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

At Marvin UMC, we believe a unified disciple-forming church grounded in prayer calls all people to an active life-altering relationship with Jesus, equips all people through Biblical teaching and sends out disciples to share the gospel. Therefore, we invite you to consider the vow below, before you join this congregation.

As a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Prayer: At Marvin UMC, we believe fervent prayer is a spiritual discipline that grounds us in faith. In obedience to Scripture, we pray without ceasing so we stay connected to God. Prayer is both spending time speaking to God and spending time listening for God. We pray with the expectation that God will answer in God's way and in God's time.

Will you include Marvin UMC in your prayers, so that the leadership, ministry and missions will be blessed to be a blessing in our surrounding community and in our foreign missions?

Presence: At Marvin UMC, we believe in the importance of spending time with our brothers and sisters in Christ in worship and in small groups. We come together in unity to worship as the Body of Christ to show our devotion to God. We come together in small groups to study Scripture, support one another and hold each other accountable.

Will you attend worship on a regular basis to show love for God and to attend a small group, such as a Bible study or Sunday School, starting with the membership class, so that you will continue to grow in faith and offer to God the very best in worship?

Gifts: At Marvin UMC, we believe the giving of our tithes and offerings is an expression of trust and thanksgiving in the God that created and blessed us. We recognize that everything we have is a gift from God, and it is a right and good thing to give back so that the Kingdom of God is advanced.

Will you practice good stewardship, work towards a tithe and give generously as an expression of your faith, so the Church may continue to flourish in mission and ministry to the glory of God?

Service: At Marvin UMC, we believe that servant-hood is one of the truest expressions of love. We believe that to be the greatest we must become the least by the virtue of humility. Christ is our example of humility, love and compassion for others, and we have promised to use our gifts and abilities in service to others through missions and service, and consider servant-hood as the foundation of leadership.

Will you discover your spiritual gifts and identify a place to serve that adds fulfillment and purpose to your life in Christ so that the kingdom of God is advanced?

Witness: At Marvin UMC, we believe God is active in our lives and throughout the world. We are challenged to live in response to God's continued faithfulness by sharing our stories of God's work in our lives and by expressing our love for God and others through our actions with the intention of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Will you tell your story of how God is working in your life to your family, friends, and acquaintances, and to live your life as an example of Christ in all that you do, to the end that people experience the love of Christ through your words and deeds?

In covenant with you, the people of Marvin United Methodist Church renew our covenant with Christ and promise to partner with you on your spiritual journey. We promise to proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit. We will surround you with a community of love and forgiveness, so that you may grow in your trust in God and be found faithful in your service to others. We will pray for you, so that you may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life. ²

You are invited to enter into this covenant prayerfully. By signing below, you acknowledge that you understand the vows and wish to join Marvin in membership, supporting this church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

New Member Signature

Date

Representative of the Congregation

¹ *The United Methodist Hymnal* page 39

² *The United Methodist Hymnal* page 35