

# A WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

## Love God with all Your Heart, Mind, and Soul Love Your Neighbor as Yourself



Each Gospel account reflects that Jesus invited people to follow him.

His invitation was to follow a particular Way of living that sought to love God with all your heart, mind, and soul and love your neighbor as yourself.

Scripture identifies practices that help discipline our lives to love God and neighbor. We believe Jesus continues to invite us to follow a particular Way of living that would draw us closer to God and help make an impact in our communities.

Through the practice of disciplines we become more faithful and faith-filled Disciples. This covenant invites you to engage in particular practices that follow **A Way of Discipleship** with the goal of more closely following the Way Jesus invites us to live.

### The Practice of Corporate Worship

The essence of Corporate Worship is loving God with all our heart because it is a response of praise and thanksgiving to God by the community of faith. The recognition of God's love and grace in our lives prompts this grateful response. Through corporate worship we continually retell the story of God's salvation as a way of reminding us who we are and whose we are. Disciples prepare for worship by honest self examination, prayerful anticipation of God's activity, and a hopeful expectation for an encounter with God's presence. Disciples meditate on the assigned scripture for the day, pray for the pastor and all who are involved in leading the service, as well as praying for those who will be attending. Disciples seek to be engaged in corporate worship each week.

### The Practice of Group Study

The practice of group study is the means to love God with all our mind. Study involves training our mind to focus on divine things. It is seeking to gain understanding through attention to the interpretation and application of scripture. Scripture study is approached in prayer, humility and dialogue. Disciples understand that as our minds are focused in study our lives become transformed. Disciples are intentional about their study and participate in a group study at least once a year.

### The Practice of Personal Devotions

Loving God with all your soul takes place as you engage in practices of personal devotion. Beyond corporate expressions of worship, we need to follow the example of Jesus as he withdrew from corporate activity to spend time alone in communion with God. The disciplines of solitude, prayer, and meditation provide the framework for all personal devotions, and a Disciple engages in these practices as a means of discerning the heart and mind of God. Practices of personal devotion create an emotional and spiritual space in the soul that enables the Disciple to better commune with God. Disciples engage in some practice of personal devotion every day.

### The Practice of Giving

Disciples understand that following Jesus means we are to reflect God's nature in our lives. In faith we acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from God, therefore, our lives are to mirror God's giving nature. Giving also places us in God's care; we trust God to provide for our needs as we give to others. Scripture invites us to seek God's direction on how much to give, but also reminds us to be generous in our giving. The ancient Hebrew practice of giving the first one tenth of one's income (a tithe) has long been a benchmark for the discipline of giving. Disciples give a specific portion of their income as they are led by God to give, understanding that the goal of proportional giving is the tithe.

### **The Practice of Faith Sharing**

Jesus instructs his followers to go “make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19). The primary way we can love our neighbor as we love ourselves is to share our life transforming faith with them. Disciples are compelled by God’s Spirit to assist others in developing a faith relationship. Through intentional action Disciples demonstrate God’s love and invite others to experience God’s love and grace for themselves. Disciples prayerfully seek to share their faith at a minimum of twice a year and are attentive to those opportunities.

### **The Practice of Ministry**

Loving our neighbor as we love ourselves challenges us to expand our area of concern. Jesus’ ministry consistently took him to those who were outcast by the synagogue and the community. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and loved the unlovable. Disciples understand ministry to be among people who are not yet a part of the faith community. Disciples seek to correct injustice and work to connect the disenfranchised with the community of faith. Disciples are involved in at least one area of ministry with their neighborhood.

## **The Covenant**

I covenant to live  
A Way of Discipleship.

I will, to the extent possible, be  
present in worship on a weekly  
basis.

I will participate in at least one study  
group per year.

I will practice at least one form of  
personal devotion daily.

I will give a portion of my annual  
income as God leads. This  
portion will be given first and at  
the pace God directs.

I will share my faith with at least two  
new people each year.

I will engage in at least one form of  
ministry in my neighborhood.



**Yes!**

**I want to follow Jesus by living a  
Way of Discipleship.**

My signature below indicates that I will engage in the disciplines of Worship, Study, Personal Devotions, Giving, Faith Sharing and Ministry.

I will return this section to my pastor, in a sealed envelope, as an indication of my covenant and an invitation for my pastor to hold me in prayer as I practice these disciplines.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Way United Methodist  
Church  
29645 51st Ave S  
Auburn, WA 98001

Phone: 253-839-9220  
www.fwumc.org