

**Justice, Inclusiveness, and Self Discipline:
A Covenant Among the People of Community United Church of Christ**

We, as partners in this covenant, and with God's help, will work together to create a place that nurtures the self-discipline necessary to thrive in a mutually respectful, just, and inclusive community.

As adults we covenant to teach the youth of our congregation methods of self-discipline that they can use both now and in the future. We will work to be consistent and just.

As youth, we covenant to seek out others who can help us to express ourselves in an honest and respectful way.

As youth and adults, we will pay attention to our part in this community and will act responsibly to each other. We will work to listen and understand each other.

Guidelines for Response to Disruptive Behavior

We believe that each of us should "Do unto others as we would have others do unto us." Each of us controls our actions. These guidelines are intended to help us make good choices. Each of us needs to be safe and to know what to expect. When we make mistakes, we need to know what to do to heal any damage done and be welcomed back.

1. If a person's behavior is so bad that they need to be reminded to use self-control, he or she will be reminded by a member of the community. This reminder will be given respectfully, and privately if possible.
2. If the person cannot or will not exercise self control after being reminded, he or she will be told to leave the activity. If the person is a youth, his or her parent or guardian will be informed.
3. If a person is told to leave an activity, we will work with them to heal the damage and return to the group.
 - If the behavior is loud, disruptive, or disrespectful, the person will be told to leave the activity until the next scheduled gathering.
 - If the behavior involves spoken or unspoken threats, horseplay, or actions likely to result in hurting people or property damage, the person will be told to leave the activity until she or he has developed a realistic plan for handling her or his behavior, and for healing any damage, including apologizing to the group. The group leader is responsible for approving the plan and helping the person to follow through with the plan and then rejoin the group.
 - If the behavior involves physical violence, vandalism, illegal drug or alcohol use, the person will be told to leave the activity until he or she has developed a realistic plan for handling his or her behavior, and for healing any damage caused. For youth, the Christian Education Committee will be responsible for approving the plan with the consent of the group and group leader. For adults, the Board of Deacons will have this responsibility. After approval, the group leader will help the person rejoin the group.