

Canton First United Methodist Church

Governing Board Leadership Covenant

1. Governing Board members are role models for the congregation in supporting and promoting the vision and mission of our church. Members will model mature discipleship and servant leadership, engaging in an active prayer life, regularly attending worship, participating in faith development groups, serving in mission and ministry teams, and sharing their faith with others.

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" Acts 20:35

*"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant."
Matthew 20:26*

2. Governing Board members will encourage and support our pastors and fellow Board members, holding one another close in prayer. Board members will hold the pastors and other Board members accountable for their leadership roles and responsibilities.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!" Eccles. 4:9-10

3. Governing Board members are expected to be present at Governing Board meetings. Board members will review the agenda and accompanying documents prior to the meetings, prayerfully consider the items presented, and come fully prepared and ready to participate.

"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Philippians 2:13

4. Governing Board members are encouraged to invest in discussions and decision making. Once the Board has reached a decision, each Governing Board member will openly and publicly support the decision of the Governing Board, whether the individual member personally agrees with the decision. We are a Governing Board with a unified voice.

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

5. We understand that conflict and disagreement are natural in any community, including the church. As a Board, we will approach matters of disagreement with transparency, always maintaining our missional focus as a Board. At no time will we support secret meetings that undermine the integrity or authority of the pastor or Governing Board.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

6. We understand that, as leaders in our church, comments, or conversations about personnel (pastors or staff) are inappropriate with anyone at any level and should be avoided. Members should always be supportive and encouraging. Concerns are to be processed with the Lead Pastor, the collective Governing Board and/or the Personnel Committee of the Board, as appropriate.

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." Ephesians 4:29

Canton First UMC Mission Statement:

Sharing our lives with others so that everyone will find hope-filled life in Christ, founded on 1 Thessalonians 2:8.