

Land of the Sky United Church of Christ

is an emerging, progressive community
seeking to serve the still-speaking God
by **living justly**,
loving abundantly,
and **walking humbly** in the ways of Jesus.

**LIVE
JUSTLY.
LOVE
ABUNDANTLY.
WALK
HUMBLY.**

Our Vision:

Serving the Still Speaking God We believe in the good news that God is with us—we are not alone. Because God continues to speak, we look for the divine Spirit reflected in creation, culture, and new understandings of the Bible. We are a community that listens attentively for God’s word and wisdom. Our faith is over 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not. We seek to balance our rich Christian history with openness to new ideas and possibilities.

Living Justly We strive to live justly by covenanting to build just relationships and dismantle unjust practices and institutions both in the church and in the world. In solidarity with the history of the United Church of Christ—which was the first historically white denomination to ordain an African-American, the first to ordain a woman, and the first to ordain an openly gay man—we honor the voices and stories of those who live on the margins, as Jesus did. We affirm the creative diversity of God’s world, remembering that we stand in need of one another and each belong in the sacred family of living things. We delight in using expansive language that re-imagines God through rich imagery and inspired metaphor. We seek to cultivate reconciliation with the Earth and the natural world.

Loving Abundantly As a community living into the unity for which Jesus prayed, we welcome the beautiful spectrum of God’s people—of every race, nationality, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, age, and ability—into the full life of the church. We desire to love abundantly by covenanting to live lives that are reconciled to God, self, and neighbor. We seek to welcome the stranger as one through whom we might learn a deeper truth about the God who is love. Together, we participate in acts of mercy to witness to God’s love in the world through Jesus Christ.

Walking Humbly We commit to walk humbly with God by cultivating our spiritual lives through worship, prayer, study, contemplation, celebration, ritual, and deepening community life. As a foundational source for understanding God’s good news, we honor the Bible’s persistent wisdom, seek out its new insights, and ask the difficult questions of faith. As a community striving to live in the ways of Jesus, we walk as compassionate companions on this journey of faith.

Threshold Partnership Litany of Commitment

One: Beckoned to this community of faith, we come together as travelers on a journey, each bringing our unique histories, traditions and stories and for that we give God praise and thanksgiving.

Many: We come to cross the threshold into a new state of affairs in the church, in our lives and in God's world.

One: As a community, we strive to live justly-in our lives and in relationship to one another.

Many: We commit ourselves to journey with one another, opening our hearts to the great gift and the inevitable challenges of discipleship.

One: As a community, we strive to love abundantly offering an extravagant welcome to all who seek a spiritual home.

Many: We commit ourselves to honoring the beautiful spectrum of God's people. We commit to reconciling with God, self and neighbor. We proclaim that there is yet more light and truth to break forth from God's Word, and we commit to open our hearts, minds, and souls to seek the Still Speaking God among us.

One: As a community, we strive to walk humbly in the ways of Jesus by cultivating our spiritual lives as individuals and in community.

Many: We commit ourselves to participate in the building up of this community and our lives through worship, prayer, celebration and ritual.

One: We are blessed with an abundance of resources, all with varied abilities to give of our time, talent and treasure.

Many: We commit to giving generously from our abundance so that we may continue strengthening our community.

One: Beckoned to this community of faith, we know that through our commitment we transform promise into reality and intention into action, and so together we proclaim:

Many: We come to cross the threshold into a new state of affairs in the church, in our lives and in God's world.