



Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



A Covenant for Presiding for United Methodists Bishops

1. I understand that offering myself as a potential presider is a sacred trust given to me in my consecration and as an expression of the specific responsibilities of Bishops outlined in Section IV, paragraphs 414 and 415 of the *2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline*.
2. I understand that as a presider I must employ a deep sense of humility in my approach to presiding as well as the manner in which I conduct myself if asked to assume this responsibility.
3. I will make every attempt to preside with impartiality no matter the cause or decision.
4. I covenant to be a part of a group of potential presiders who are committed to developing a common strategy/approach among all presiders.
5. I will be committed to a group strategy around the ways we as a team can assist the body in their discernment and discussion so that they can do their work well and make the best decision possible.
6. I agree to work with my colleagues to develop a common understanding of “in harmony” petitions regardless of the cause I personally promote.
7. I commit myself to unity as a part of our consecration vows rather than polarization and disunity among the body.
8. I covenant to maintaining a spirit of confidentiality in the matters discussed and strategies determined in our training sessions.
9. I am committed to creating a non-anxious presence in my leadership as well as a devoted posture of prayer for my colleagues while they are presiding and in the days leading up to the session of the General Conference.