



## VISION

Conceived and promoted by leaders from central conferences, the Christmas Covenant *“envisions a Church that connects globally, engages in mission together, respects contextual ministry settings, celebrates the diversity of God’s creation in its many beautiful expressions, and values mutually empowering relationships in order to strengthen our core mission of evangelism, discipleship, and social witness for the transformation of the world.”*

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To celebrate equity and mutuality, the Christmas Covenant draws from principles cherished by United Methodists from different regions of our global connection:

- ***We are children of God*** – To consider one another siblings of equal stature and rights is a key human value upheld by our Christian faith. *“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)*
- ***Ubuntu*** – an African concept that embodies a way of life where humanity is based on the understanding of interdependence and community life.
- ***Bayanihan*** - a cherished ancient Filipino concept of community spirit and cooperation to achieve communal goals.

## VALUES

Holding in gracious tension the differences between regions and bearing with one another in love, the Christmas Covenant lifts up these values that are its key components:

- ***Connectional relationships rooted in mission.***
- ***Understanding diverse contextual ministry settings.***
- ***Legislative equity for regional conferences of the church.***

## LEGISLATION

The Christmas Covenant was conceived during the Christmas season of 2019 and is a direct response by some Central Conference leaders to the impact of the 2019 General Conference. It reminds us of the Christmas Conference of 1784 that gave birth to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

***The Christmas Covenant is a rallying point for a renewed, vital, and mission-focused UMC around the world. It will deliver us from decades of acrimonious debate on our differences. It will give us gracious space to be effective in proclaiming the Gospel in our respective ministry contexts, and enrich respectful global connectional relationships.***

The Christmas Covenant proposes constitutional amendments and enabling legislation that seeks to achieve these by:

- ***Transforming Central Conferences to Regional Conferences.***
- ***Creating one United States Regional Conference (as proposed by the Connectional Table and supported by Central Conference bishops).***
- ***Strengthening the ability of Regional Conferences to adapt the Book of Discipline to meet the contextual missional needs of each region without forcing regional policies on other regions.***

## ENDORSEMENTS

- UMC Connectional Table
- United Methodist Women
- Annual Conferences: North Texas, Florida, California-Pacific, California-Nevada, Davao Area (Philippines), and some in the Manila Area (Philippines)
- UMC Inter-Ethnic Strategy and Development Group (IESDG)
- MARCHA (UMC National Hispanic Caucus)

## SUPPORT THE CHRISTMAS COVENANT

- **Sign up** as a supporter: [www.tinyurl.com/ccsupporter](http://www.tinyurl.com/ccsupporter)
- **Like, follow, and share** our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/christmascovenant](http://www.facebook.com/christmascovenant)
- **Hold a forum** on the Christmas Covenant in your congregation, annual conference, and jurisdictional/central conference. Visit the Christmas Covenant website for resources: [www.christmascovenant.com](http://www.christmascovenant.com).
- **Invite** the Christmas Covenant Outreach Team to do presentations. Email us at [christmascovenant@gmail.com](mailto:christmascovenant@gmail.com).
- **Organize** to get your GC delegation and annual conference to endorse the Christmas Covenant.
- **Donate** to support the Christmas Covenant Team: [www.christmascovenant.com/donate](http://www.christmascovenant.com/donate)