

“Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church.®

“Living Our Promise”

Through its television campaign, the United Methodist Church is promising seekers that it is a denomination of open hearts, open minds and open doors.

We recognize that not all United Methodist congregations equally open their hearts, minds and doors to welcome people. The call to live out this promise is a worthy goal, set high. And the achievement of "Open Hearts" is subjectively measured. The test of when a church truly lives the promise is perhaps best judged by those it serves.

**Discipline Excerpts From "Our Mission and Ministry"  
"Called to Inclusiveness"**

*We recognize that God made all creation and saw that it was good. As a diverse people of God who bring special gifts and evidences of God's grace to the unity of the Church and to society, we are called to be faithful to the example of Jesus' ministry to all persons.*

*Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the life of the Church, the community, and the world. Thus, inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination.*

*The mark of an inclusive society is one in which all persons are open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supporting of all other persons, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the church, the community, and the world. A further mark of inclusiveness is the setting of church activities in facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.*

*In The United Methodist Church inclusiveness means the freedom for the total involvement of all persons who meet the requirements of The United Methodist Book of Discipline in the membership and leadership of the Church at any level and in every place. In the spirit of this declaration, United Methodist seminaries will make all efforts to meet Americans with Disabilities (ADA) accessibility standards by the year 2011. Exemptions for historical or existing buildings are not allowed under this requirement.*

*From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2000. Copyright 2000 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.*

## Our Service to The World

Our *open hearts* are evident not only in our shared theology but also in our service to the world. The *Discipline* states:

*“We insist that personal salvation always involves Christian mission and service to the world. By joining **heart** and hand, we assert that personal religion, evangelical witness, and Christian social action are reciprocal and mutually reinforcing.”* (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church – 2000, ¶101, page 47)

Our *open minds* focus on servanthood:

*“The heart of Christian ministry is Christ’s ministry of outreaching love. Christian ministry is the expression of the **mind** and mission of Christ by a community of Christians that demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship. All Christians are called through their baptism to this ministry of servanthood in the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.”* (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church – 2000, ¶125, page 89)

Our *open doors* allow for a variety of understandings within a single faith community:

*“While the Church considers its doctrinal affirmations a central feature of its identity and restricts official changes to a constitutional process, the Church encourages serious reflection across the theological spectrum.”* (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church – 2000, ¶104, page 75)