

# First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) DRAFT Covenant

First Christian Church is a faith community that gathers in the heart of downtown Olympia, Washington. We affirm the worth and dignity of every person. All are created in the image of God and all are welcome here.

*We come together in love and friendship to worship God  
and enjoy the blessings of community.*

We are an open and affirming congregation. We celebrate God's love for all people—who differ in age, cultural background, economic status, family structure, gender identity, life circumstances, marital status, nationality, physical and mental ability, race, and sexual orientation.

*Our love is radical, unconditional.  
We want the stories of many and different people  
to be the present and future of this congregation.*

We know that the institutional Church has harmed certain people by denying them God's unconditional love. We believe that discrimination is incompatible with Christ's Gospel. We commit to making this faith community a safe home for everyone. Mutual respect, kindness, understanding, patience, and love live here.

*We strive to reflect God's inclusive unconditional love.*

Ours is a faith of contemplation, action, and transformation. We're not the church we were in the year 2000. Yes, we nurture faith through prayer and Sunday service. We put our faith into action through generosity and service. And, we try mightily to embrace radical hospitality—to move beyond “welcoming in” and take ourselves to places we might not go without Jesus's tender nudging.

*Radical hospitality doesn't just ask “do you want to be with us?”  
It says “how can we be with you?”*

Ours is a faith that embraces baptism and communion. Baptism symbolizes the decision to set aside—wash away—the old self and begin a new life of trust in God.

First Christian Church of Olympia is affiliated with The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We:

- Practice baptism by immersion.
- Recognize baptism traditions from other denominations.
- Offer baptism as a personal choice, not a requirement.
- Do not perform infant baptism, instead waiting until an individual is old enough

to choose to serve God.

The Lord's Supper (Communion) commemorates the Passover feast, when Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion. Communion is a central part of our weekly worship service *and it is open to all.*

*We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.  
As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table  
as God has welcomed us.*

We are on a spiritual journey as followers of the teachings of Jesus to do justice, love goodness, and walk humbly and thoughtfully with God. Each of us, to the extent we are able, gives of our time, talents, and money. For by pooling together gifts of all sizes, God provides plenty for all.

*We promise to support each other and this church as we are best able.*