Morningside United Methodist Church
Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct covers our behavior as members or congregants of the Morningside UMC, in any forum, public gathering, electronic or other private correspondence. The Committees of the Council, Board of Trustees, Youth Group and Sunday School, Study Groups or other governance or educational bodies are ultimately accountable to the Morningside Council, which will, in accordance with the Morningside UMC Conflict Resolutions Policy, arbitrate in any dispute over the conduct of a member of the community.

Be considerate. St. Paul compared the church to an interconnected and interdependent body. What we do and say has an effect on others and we in turn are affected by the words and actions of others. Any decision or action we take will affect members and guests of our church, and we should take those consequences into account when making decisions or engaging with others.

Be respectful. The Morningside UMC community and its members treat one another with respect. Everyone can make a valuable contribution to Morningside and to Christ's Church. We may not always agree, but disagreement is no excuse for poor behavior and poor manners. We might all experience some frustration now and then, but we cannot allow that frustration to turn into a personal attack. We should also be respectful of the reasons other members or congregants choose to be a part of the Morningside UMC, and should not take advantage of our collective presence to target or pursue others for our own personal interests in a manner that may not be welcomed by others. It's important to remember that a community where people feel uncomfortable or threatened is not a grace-filled one. We expect members and congregants of the Morningside UMC community to be respectful when dealing with other members as well as with people outside the Morningside UMC community.

Be collaborative. Collaboration is central to our life as a community and to the larger Christian community. This collaboration involves individuals working with others in groups, groups working with each other within Morningside, and individuals and teams within Morningside working with other groups outside. This collaboration reduces redundancy, and improves the effectiveness of our mission. We should always be open to collaboration. Our work should be done transparently and we should involve as many interested parties as early as possible while retaining a focus on the mission of the church.

When we disagree, we consult others. Disagreements, both social and theological, happen all the time and the Morningside UMC community is no exception. It is important that we resolve disagreements and differing views constructively and with the help of the community and community processes. We have a Church Council and a series of other governance bodies which help to decide the right course for Morningside UMC. Our Pastor and Lay Leader help to interpret the best path to achieve our vision as a church.

When we are unsure, we ask for help. Nobody knows everything, and nobody is expected to be perfect in the Morningside UMC community. Asking questions avoids many problems down the road, and so questions are encouraged. Those who are asked questions should be responsive and helpful. However, when asking a question, care must be taken to do so in an appropriate forum.

Step down considerately. Members of every church community come and go and Morningside is no different. When somebody leaves or disengages from the church or from a particular ministry in the church, we ask that they do so in a way that minimizes disruption to the church community. This means they should tell people they are leaving and take the proper steps to ensure that others can pick up where they left off.

We pride ourselves on building a productive, joyful, and agile community that can welcome new ideas in a complex community, and foster collaboration between groups with very different needs, interests and goals. We hold our leaders to an even higher standard, in the Leadership Code of Ethics, and arrange the governance of the community to ensure that issues can be raised with leaders who are engaged, interested and competent to help resolve them.