Clergy Covenant

As members of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church we declare our love for God and our commitment to one another. We recognize the fact that there are different opinions regarding many controversial issues, and that there are varieties of theological expressions with our collegial connection.

Issues related to homosexuality, same sex unions, and ordination, have brought friction and division among us. Colleagues are firm in their conviction that Jesus is the only way to salvation while others entertain the possibility that there are many paths to truth and salvation.

Our Wesleyan heritage challenges us to live our lives within the context of a covenant relationship that extends to every area of Christian life. We are invited to live in covenant with God, with one another, and with the church. Wesley invited believers to offer evidence of their faith [1] by doing no harm, [2] by doing good in every situation, and [3] by attending to all the ordinances of God.

The Gospel of Matthew challenges us to, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your5 neighbor as yourself."

At the heart of the Christian faith is a call to obedience that challenges every believer to live a life of integrity that is motivated by love.

To live fully in a spirit of covenant with God and with one another, we will…

- **Intentionally look for ways to encourage one another**
- **Place emphasis on relationships that are based on grace**
- **Disagree in a spirit of honest debate that respects our diversity**
- **Speak well of one another**
- **Respect, honor and trust each other**

It is our conviction that our model for dialogue may establish a prototype for what the whole church could achieve. In spite of our obvious disagreements we will work diligently together to find and focus upon those areas wherein we can find agreement.   5/31/2001

[Signed by clergy members]