

Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service

2026

Dear Friends, get these two principles fixed in thy hearts:

Firstly, that Things **Eternal**

art much more important than things **temporal**.

Secondly, that Things **Unseen**

art as significant as the things that **art seen**.

Therefore, choose'th this day Christ and His ways,
and thou art blessed forever!

Refuse, and thou art be undone forever.

I beseech thee, dear friends,

to choose'th Christ, with His yoke, His cross, and His crown;
or else thou shalt have chosen wickedness,
with its wealth, its pleasure, and its curse.

Thou can'st sit on the fence forever. An In-Between, there is nought.

Make thy choice today.

If thou choose'th the Crown, remember this day,
thou must be satisfied with the thorns of that Crown;
those being the service and sufferings of Christ.

If thou art so unresolved, thou art, in fact, resolved.

Thou hast already made thy decision in thine heart.

But if thou art so resolved, then sayeth with me,

“Today, I do so choose Christ!”

This being thy choosing, may it be so,

for thou hast chosen God for thy destiny and happiness.

Embark, now, with Christ. Explore, now, with the Holy Ghost.

Adventure, now, thyself with God.

See what it is that Christ doth expect of thee,

and then yield'th thyself to His whole will.

Thou can'st compromise or make thine own terms;
that would never be allowed of thee.

Becoming aware of their sin and danger,

a sinner will look for help and deliverance

and will look everywhere else

before looking toward Christ.

Nothing will bring a sinner to Christ but absolute necessity –
when all other options have been exhausted.

They will try to forget and excuse their own sin as far as they can.

What shall you do then?

Thou must let thy sins go. Let thy self-righteousness go.

Christ came not to call the righteous,

but to bring sinners to repentance

and to seek and save those who know they are lost.

May it be so with thee this day!

The Three Simple Rules

I have provided a code of conduct for all the members
of our United Societies of Methodists

so that we can give an account of our obedience to the Lord.

Every member shall, each week, give their account of the past week
with a confirming reply from the leader to each in turn.

In our gathering today, we shall examine what I call

our **Three Simple Rules for the People Called Methodists.**

With each rule are included examination questions I have gathered,

ones I have offered myself devotionally these past many years,

and of which I find to be most beneficial to the soul.

I charge the leaders of each class to use these to help one another
stay accountable.

Today, we affirm the spirit of each one.

#1: Do No Harm

- Have you been or seemed angry this week?
- Have you enjoyed the company of drunkards or busybodies this week?
- Have you taken the name of God in vain this week?
- Have you, this week, bought or sold hard liquors,
or drank them, unless prescribed by a physician?
- Have you bought or sold a slave in this past week?
- Have you fought, quarreled, brawled, or gone to court against a sibling in Christ?
- Have you returned evil for evil, railing for railing?
- Have you had uncharitable or unprofitable conversation,
speaking evil of anyone or anything?
- Did you refrain from mentioning the fault of any behind their back?
- Did you stop those short that do?
- Have you done to another as you would not want them to do unto you?

- Did you do anything that you know is not for the glory of God?
- Did you put on gold and other costly apparel,
as to draw unnecessary and vain attention to yourself?
- Have you sung songs or read books which do not tend
to the increase of knowledge or love of God?
- Have you borrowed without a probability of repaying?
- Do you refrain from using needless self-indulgences
that affect your inward & outward body, unless prescribed by a physician?
- Are you working diligently to abolish all the sin in your life?

M: Do you so affirm this our First Rule with your own voice?

**ALL: This is my vow: To do no harm and avoid evil of all kinds,
especially that which is most commonly practiced.**

#2: Do Good

*(of every possible sort and to all people,
as far as you have opportunity)*

- Did you begin and end every day this week with God?
- Were you attentive to your calling as a disciple?
- Did you employ all spare hours to religion, as able?
- Did you observe all the holy days since we last met?
- Did you examine yourself and your day every night before resting your head?
- Did you ever pass a day without setting aside at least an hour for devotion?
- Did you begin every action in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?
- Did you begin every important work with prayer?
- Whenever you did an action,
did you consider how God did or would do the like, and do you imitate that?
- Were you honest in both your buying and selling?
- Did you contribute or donate things from your possession,
and that to the uttermost of your power?
- Have you fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited or helped them
who are sick or in prison since we last met?
- Have you instructed the souls of others on the good doctrines of the Church
and the divine laws of God?
- Have you shared the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ to any poor soul
whom you have greeted?
- Do you have patterns of diligence & frugality, of self-denial, and taking up the
cross daily?

M: Do you so affirm this our Second Rule from your own mouth?

**ALL: This is my vow: To do good of every possible sort
to all people, as far as I have opportunity.**

#3: Stay in Love with God

- Do you continue your vow to be at church and at the Lord's Table every week and at every gathering of the Society, and meetings of your class & band group?
- Is your worship heartfelt and genuine?
- Do you use private prayer every day, and family prayer, as able?
- Do you stretch yourself through your prayers as to leave no stone unturned?
- Do you read the Scriptures, and meditate therein, at every vacant hour?
- Do you observe, as days of fasting or abstinence, all Fridays in the year?

M: Do you affirm this our Third Rule with the sounds of your own lips?

ALL: This is my vow: To stay in love with God

by committing myself to God's People and their holy habits.

THE COMMITMENT & COVENANT

(PLEASE KNEEL OR LEAN FORWARD IN YOUR PEW)

M: God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

**P: From the bottom of my heart, I renounce all my idols,
praying that no known sin shall be allowed in my life.**

M: God wants to guide your life; but will you allow it?

**P: Today, before all Heaven and Earth,
I acknowledge God as my Merciful Maker.
I take You for my destiny,
to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

*M: God has given the Lord Jesus Christ
as the primary means of returning to God.*

**P: Jesus, my Savior, on bended knees,
I do renew my acceptance of You
as the Way that leads to Life.
I come to You, here, to accept You as Master to my soul.
I renounce my own merit, my own wisdom, my own will.**

M: Christ has told you that you must suffer with Him.

**P: I shall take my fate from You as it may fall, for nothing,
neither life nor death, shall part me from Your love.**

*M: Christ has offered you His teachings and duties
as the Rule for your life.*

**P: I take them now as the Rule for my words and actions,
promising to strive to order my whole life
according to Your direction.**

M: The Holy Spirit already searches and knows your heart.

**P: If any falsehood should be in my heart,
guide me and help me to set it right.**

In so giving thyself to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
thou art affirming thou wilt be content
with the work to which God has appointed thee.
Christ has many services to be done for the Reign of Heaven,
some easy and honorable, others difficult and humble.
Some duties art more pleasing than others.
But in it all, God ordaineth the work as unescapably crucial
for the transformation of our community & world.

WESLEY'S COVENANT PRAYER:

**Lord, make me what You will, on Your terms, not mine.
Let me be Your worker, under Your command.
I choose no longer be my own.
I will give myself over to You in all things.
I put myself fully into Your hands.
Make me what You will; send me where You will;
and set before me the neighbors I am to love.
Guide me along the easy path or down the rocky road;
let me step up for You or step aside for You;
let me be full, let me be empty;
let me have all things, let me have nothing.
Let me be a vessel made of silver or gold, or of wood or stone,
just so that I'm a vessel of Your honor.
Whether higher or lower, refined or raw, I am content.
Whether You choose me to go forth or stay,
may I be of service.
I freely and heartily
give it all to Your pleasure and disposal.**

**I am no longer bound by fear but held in love.
Put me to what gives life,
place me with those cast aside.
Let me be lifted up in joy, or stand in holy resistance.
I fully yield my identity, my story, and my calling
to Your grace that makes all things new.**

**You are the God who created me beautifully & wonderfully,
the Christ who walks with me in flesh & scars,
and the Spirit who breathes freedom into my becoming.**

O Mighty God, Lord Omnipotent, Eternal One:

With all that I have and all that I am,

You are mine, and I am Yours.

You have now become my Covenant-Friend

and I, through Your infinite grace,

have become Your Covenant-Disciple.

And let this covenant I have made here on earth

be ratified in heaven

and lived out in justice & peace.

In the name of Christ Jesus: *Be it so!*

*Make this covenant not only in your hearts & minds, but in word;
not only in word, but in writing.*

*Sign below. Do so reverently, spreading out your name
before the Lord, presenting it as a sign of your vow.*

*Keep this as a reminder of the holy agreement between God & you,
a baptismal transaction that has passed between God & you,
that you may remember it during times of doubts & temptations.*

With reverence,

I present my name below

as a sign of my covenant renewal to You,

God Almighty:

SIGNED ON THIS THE ELEVENTH DAY OF THE MONTH OF JANUARY
IN THE TWO-THOUSANDTH AND TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR OF OUR LORD.

Port Home Group Event

(all others are welcome, too; it's not restricted to anyone)

DALLAHAN

Irish & Scottish Instrumental Music

THIS Wednesday, January 14th

7:00p – 9:30p

McMillan Library – Fine Art Center

go for dessert after concert

hosted by Sue M.



transforming

a 3-week small group study @ PEUMC

When: Monday, January 26th

Monday, February 2nd

Monday, February 9th



11:00 – noon – Memorial Lounge / ZOOM

Topic:

The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians

Trans biblical scholar Austen Hartke brings a biblically-based, educational, and affirming resource to shed light and wisdom on gender expansiveness and Christian theology. Our small group study will be based on Austen's updated and expanded 2023 edition of the book **transforming**. **transforming** skillfully weaves ancient and modern stories that will change the way readers think about gender, the Bible, and the faith to which Jesus calls us. Hartke helps readers visualize a more inclusive Christianity, equipping them with the language, understanding, confidence, and tools to change both the church and the world.

THIS IS *NOT* A BIBLE STUDY.

YOU DON'T NEED PRE-BIBLE-KNOWLEDGE TO ATTEND!

SIGN-UP TODAY!