We welcome all

As we build a loving community

To nourish each person’s spiritual journey

Serve human need

And protect the earth, our home

***Loving Community Toolkit***

The Executive Committee, church staff, and our minister charge and encourage you to refer frequently to our Mission as you conduct the business of the church.

Collectively we all hope that every task force you serve on, every committee in which you participate, and every meeting that you attend will provide you an opportunity to build loving community. We know that loving communities are created and maintained by the intersection of human intention, personal agreements, and the use of effective organizational tools.

Intention: Intend to build loving community at every meeting you attend.

Agreements: Listen carefully without interruption

Speak to be understood, rather than to convince

Foster open and honest communication

Celebrate diversity of opinions and views

Evoke strengths and skills of other group members

Directly address feelings and damaging behaviors Come to meetings prepared

Arrive early and start meetings on time

Share equally in the work of the group

Tools: List your group’s agreements (see above) in a written covenant

Craft a mission statement for your group’s agreed upon purpose

Agree on a decision-making model (voting, consensus, etc.)

Share background material before each meeting

Place must-address issues first on the agenda

Start meetings with a quick personal check-in

Delegate authority and distribute tasks

Keep minutes of the actions taken by the group

Use the Committee on Ministry as a resource for building loving community