

What the Superintendent expects of all clergy serving in the Alaska United Methodist Conference

1. **BOUNDARIES.** Respect all ethical boundaries of human behavior in your church and community. Be very aware to avoid situations where you are alone with a person who is fragile and vulnerable.
2. **FAMILY.** Married clergy will need to pay special attention to their marriages and their children. The isolation and climate affects people in different ways. Single clergy need to find friends who can provide nurture and accountability.
3. **CONNECTIONALISM.** Due to the isolation and remote geography of Alaska we really depend on each other. All pastors and lay professionals under appointment are expected to attend the annual clergy retreat and winter rendezvous in February, Fall rendezvous in October, regional program councils, and annual conference.
4. **PREACHING/WORSHIP.** Work on your preaching and worship leadership. If there is one common quality our churches request at the time of a pastoral change it is that they desire a preacher who can offer a relevant, engaging message based on God's Word they can take home and apply to their daily lives.
5. **SPIRITUAL LIFE.** Read the Bible and pray daily. Be aware that spiritual insights are not always given to pass on to others, but for your soul's benefit.
6. **LOVE.** Love your congregation and community. In big and small ways show them that you are one of them, that you embrace this Alaskan life in its grandeur and in its sometimes difficult realities. Remember to include self-love and self-care for your physical and emotional well being.
7. **MISSION.** Lead your congregation by example in reaching out to be in ministry with the poor and to engage your church in mission beyond themselves.
8. **EVANGELISM.** Create a church system that is conducive to welcoming new people. Help them deal with the changes that are necessary in order to assimilate new people. Remember, disciple making is the purpose of the Church, and the work of a disciple is the transformation of the world.
9. **IMPROVE.** Show a genuine willingness to become a better pastor. Take your continuing education seriously. Ask your SPRC for ideas. Consider relating your education experiences to the goals of your church.
10. **ADMINISTER.** Demonstrate ability to follow through with ministry tasks and keep the infrastructure of the church running smoothly. **ANSWER YOUR EMAIL!**
11. **LAUGHTER.** Look for ways to not take yourself so seriously. Letting things roll off your back with a humorous comment will go far to strengthen your emotional well being in Alaska.

Alaska United Methodist Conference Clergy/Church Covenant

Between Rev. Real Person and Alaska United Methodist Church

The idea is simple. The pastor and church agree to the following actions for the coming year. At the end of this year this covenant will be reviewed as both the pastor and the church evaluate their progress.

Rev. Person agrees to the following actions:

- ✓ Preach the Word of God, lead in worship, teach the Scriptures, and engage people in study and witness.
- ✓ Lead people in discipleship and evangelistic outreach.
- ✓ Perform acts of marriage and burial with care and compassion.
- ✓ Visit the sick, aged, imprisoned, and others in need.
- ✓ Maintain confessional confidences except where mandated reporting by law.
- ✓ Administer sacraments of baptism and holy communion.
- ✓ Be the administrative officer of the church.
- ✓ Give guidance and training to lay leadership.
- ✓ Give oversight to the educational program of the church.
- ✓ Provide leadership for the funding ministry of the church.
- ✓ Lead the church in its missional and connectional outreach through faithful payment of apportioned benevolences.
- ✓ Participate in denominational and conference programs and continuing education events.
- ✓ Participate in cooperative ministries with other UM and ecumenical churches.
- ✓ Lead the congregation in racial and ethnic inclusiveness.
- ✓

Alaska United Methodist Church agrees to the following actions:

- ✓ Explore what it means to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- ✓ Pray for our pastor, our church, our world.
- ✓ Be open to hearing and doing God's Word through our pastor's sermons and teaching.
- ✓ Renew our commitment to be present for our worship and ministries.
- ✓ Demonstrate our faith through acts of service to church and community.
- ✓ Identify and use our God-given spiritual gifts and talents in ways that energize the church.
- ✓ Grow in our faithful giving to the church.
- ✓ Find ways to share Jesus with others who do not have a church home.
- ✓ Be open to learning ways to love and respect each other as a church.