

Open House Month Declaration

WHEREAS, Open House Month is an opportunity for United Methodist congregations to Rethink Church and engage in radical hospitality to welcome their neighbors into Christian community.

AND WHEREAS, Christ's greatest commandment calls us to connect with people in our communities and around the world. Open House Month is a visible way for congregations to open doors, and show that church is not just a place to go, but something we do. Church is a verb.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that September be celebrated as "Open House Month" and your congregation be encouraged to:

- utilize Rethink Church resources by visiting www.rethinkchurch.org;
- offer personal invitations to friends, co-workers and neighbors in your faith community
- prepare the congregation for "Open House Month" by providing or participating in welcoming training using "Igniting Ministry" materials available from United Methodist Communications, Cokesbury, and the United Methodist Resource Center;
- participate in National Neighborhood Day on September 20, 2009. For more information visit www.neighborhoodday.org;
- pray for our church, that through the messages broadcast and the welcoming demonstrated, people without a spiritual home may become Christian disciples.

Together we can Open hearts, Open minds and Open doors.