FOUR-WAY COVENANT AGREEMENT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HOUSE OF STUDIES AT UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A Four Way Covenant Agreement between the following:

1. The Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ
2. United Theological Seminary
3. Northwest Ohio Association
4. Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association

This covenant agreement encourages “mutual support” between these four bodies and persons seeking to grow in their faith and to prepare for ministry in the United Church of Christ (UCC). It is understood that ministry in the UCC is the responsibility and calling of all members; however it is equally understood that some are further called to Authorized Ministry in the UCC; be it Ordained, Commissioned or Licensed. This agreement has as its primary intent to encourage all partners to support such persons in their pursuit of graduate level education, continuing education and/or lay education pursued through United Theological Seminary.

A “Covenant Team” will serve as an advisory group to a UCC House of Study at United Theological Seminary in Trotwood, Ohio. This team will be made up of representatives from each of the four covenant bodies. They will meet a minimum of three times a year for the purpose of supporting, nurturing, and encouraging students in their individual ministry pursuits. This support will take the form of, but not be limited to the following:

1. Recommending curriculum of graduate level courses, continuing education and lifelong learning opportunities for clergy and laity.
2. Supporting a UCC ethos on United’s campus through: Gatherings of students with a variety of current Authorized ministers within the UCC; Suggesting and supplying speakers, mentors and resources recognized and related to the UCC; and Recommending library and other resources to United for the support of the UCC House of Study and UCC students.
3. Development of Financial Support by: Seeking funding to support the various educational journeys of UCC students at United; Raising awareness in the UCC nationally, the Ohio Conference, NWOA, SONKA and the wider church of this new covenanted partnership; including UCC alumni who have ties to United
4. Seeking opportunities for students to serve in learning environments beyond their formal educational experiences.

The UCC House of Study is to be launched at the beginning of the 2010/2011 academic year and will be supported by all parties to the best of their abilities

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Dr. Wendy Deichmann Edwards; President of United

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Rev Bob Molsberry; UCC Ohio Conference Minister

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Rev. Ruth Brandon; UCC SONKA Minister

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Rev. Daniel L. Busch; UCC NWOA Minister

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Dr. Richard Eslinger; Academic Dean of United