

Christ Church United

Behavioral Covenant

Speaking -

1. We will listen before we speak.
2. We will speak respectfully.
3. We will communicate directly to each other using the first person, rather than reporting what we think others think or feel, thus refraining from gossip and hearsay.
4. We will ask questions for clarification in order to confirm that we have understood correctly, and ask others to do the same.
5. We will allow people to finish their thoughts and sentences without interrupting.
6. We will refrain from “preaching” or trying to “fix” another’s feeling or opinion, and from monopolizing the group’s time.
7. We will let each one speak, all the way around the circle, before speaking a second time.

The Truth -

8. We will be as honest as we can with each other, and work to build trust.
9. We will strive together to understand and speak from factual information, rather than leaping to conclusions based on assumptions, speculation, rumors, or hearsay.
10. We will keep an open mind in order to see things in another way, and from the vantage point of the larger Truth.
11. We will seek to interpret and describe both the positive and negative legacy that the past is exerting upon the present in the congregation.

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In Love -

12. We will continually turn to God as we proceed in order to build our capacity in love and to walk the high road.

13. We will speak to each other with respect. No name-calling, scapegoating, blaming, guilt, as all of us have in some way contributed and been affected in some way by the past.

14. We will affirm the merit in each person's idea or concern before we note its weaknesses, exercising grace toward mistakes, and people to start over.

15. We will give everyone a chance to be heard, and will listen actively and deeply to understand each other's point of view.

16. Knowing that we do not necessarily have to agree with each other, we will note the differences as they arise, and practice staying power with each other if the topic is difficult.

17. We will take a breath, pray, and pause or wait in order to not speak in anger.

18. We will receive apologies with forgiveness.

As Church -

19. We will turn to each other, learn about each other, and look for the Christ in each other, so that the mind of Christ can lead the Body of Christ.

20. Remember that we don't have to have the same experience of the same event, situation, or ministry, but must honor each other's experience, bearing with one another in love.

21. Remember that we, by our attitudes and behaviors, set examples to our youth, to each other, and bear a witness to others beyond the congregation.