

Council Behavioral Covenant

This covenant serves to remind us of what kinds of behavior – “holy manners” – the Council values and aspires to achieve. We will read this covenant together, as a spiritual discipline, prior to every Church Council meeting.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other, and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Colossians 3:12-12)

- 1. We promise to pray, alone and with others on the Council, to thank God and to ask God’s help in our lives and in our work for our church, and we promise to listen for God’s answer to us, seeking God’s direction for our church and working to lead our church in that direction.**
- 2. We will demonstrate our leadership and commitment to our church by our example.**
- 3. We will commit to being good stewards, offering up our time and talents as well as tithing, as leaders in the church.**
- 4. We will treat others with dignity and respect. We will respect and care for each other, acknowledging each other’s strengths and weaknesses.**
- 5. We will actively value different perspectives. We promise to listen with an open, nonjudgmental mind to the works and ideas of others on our Council, especially if the issue raises tension.**
- 6. We promise to communicate clearly with each other. Face-to-face interaction is preferable, but we will use electronic communication to continue discussion and/or make decisions when deemed necessary.**
- 7. We promise to discuss, debate, and disagree openly in Council meetings, expressing ourselves clearly, honestly, calmly, and kindly so that we are certain that the Council understands all points of view.**
- 8. We will respect, honor, and actively support the final decision of the Council, whether it reflects our personal point of view or not.**
- 9. Outside of Council meetings we will:**
 - a. Lead in fostering a climate of goodwill, suppressing gossip and negativity in the congregation which would derail the mission of evangelism and community outreach.**
 - b. Serve as a positive, visionary and advisory group rather than a negative gate-keeping group.**
 - c. Provide written reports on the leadership’s work monthly to the congregation.**