

Communication Guidelines

We believe that good communication and love are at the center of good relationships and a healthy church community. We believe that, although conflict is normal and can provide opportunities for ministry, good communication in a safe environment can help maintain a healthy church. Therefore, with God's help and grace we value and covenant to live by the following guidelines for communication within our church family:

-Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit and ask for God's grace to guide us in all that we say and do. We value:

- 1) providing each person with a safe environment for expressing their opinions and/or concerns.**
- 2) speaking and listening with respect.**
- 3) listening for understanding.**
- 4) questioning ideas with respect for others.**
- 5) encouraging everyone to freely state their views.**
- 6) taking responsibility for all that we say and do.**
- 7) seeking to reconcile personal differences with each other as soon as possible, giving and receiving forgiveness.**
- 8) acknowledging that effective communication may be aided by the facilitation of others.**
- 9) supporting the process of deliberation and decision making of the church, conducting a forum and other informative processes on major issues.**
- 10) trusting and supporting our leaders, respectfully sharing our concerns with them, and respecting their decisions after opinions have been openly evaluated.**
- 11) allowing the Holy Spirit to move through our lives, admitting errors, and amending decisions as our discernment grows.**

By following these covenants, we are reminded that each of us contributes to the quality and spiritual growth of our church. We believe that through Christian conduct we create an environment of openness and acceptance in which conflict becomes a positive ingredient for the spiritual growth of ourselves and our church and the possibility of change is met without fear.