

A COVENANT FOR DIALOGUE

“But **speaking the truth in love**, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” Ephesians 4:15-16

We covenant with one another to sustain a congregational culture in which we will communicate with integrity and mutual respect, and in which our creative energy—both individual and collective—will be free to flourish.

1. We will repeat in our own words what the other has said to confirm that we have understood them, and ask them to do the same if we feel we have not been understood.
2. We will communicate directly with each other, using the first person, using “I.”
3. We will try to make our meaning clear and say what we mean and mean what we say.
4. We will identify merit in another person’s idea or suggestion before we identify its deficiencies.
5. We will be willing to inquire into another person’s reasons and reasoning and will welcome inquiry into our own reasons and reasoning.
6. We will listen to understand, but don’t necessarily have to agree.
7. We will not say outside the meeting what we are unwilling to say inside the meeting.

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