



Covenant of Leadership
St. John's Lutheran Church Council
2023

It is a privilege to be in ministry together in this place, and to serve as members of the Congregation Council. As such, we are blessed with the responsibility of leading God's people as they seek to grow in their faith and in their discipleship. The following covenantal expectations are offered in order to help new and existing Council members successfully carry out their responsibility, not as an oppressive burden, but as a privileged call to serve God by leading God's people.

Do no harm. Meet people where they are and treat them with respect. And do not allow your words and actions to get in the way or become a cause for offense. Have grace with one another when we make mistakes.

Do whatever good you can. Within the tasks and relationships with which you are blessed, serve the growth and well being of individuals and this community of faith.

Be punctual. People are counting on you to be at an event or a meeting and be there early enough to be prepared for it to begin.

Pray often. Nothing you do will, in and of itself, produce the desired results. People form relationships—with God and with the people of God—when the Spirit is at work.

Be a team player. As a member of the Council you have the responsibility to work in concert with others. Maintain good communication at all times.

Be a problem solver. Support one another in public, and help to hold each other accountable by following Jesus' advice and talking to one another in private if there is a conflict, problem, or misunderstanding.

Be an example. Council members are expected to lead by example of a loving Christian community. Volunteer regularly and get to know each other in authentic ways.

Be imaginative. Faith is intrinsically imagination—imagining a world redeemed by the gospel, a vision that flies in the face of evil and doubt. Your creativity is a gift; use it to serve God.

Be hard-working. We show our gratitude for the work we are called to do by holding ourselves responsible to get the job done, for the sake of the gospel and the people we serve.

Behavioral Covenant for Group Conversation

I will give my full attention when listening to another without interrupting. I will listen to hear what another is saying, not just to form a response.

I will suspend judgment and respect the other's point of view.

I will offer thanks to others for their courage in sharing.

I will honor each person's faith in Christ and listen for truth in another's point of view.

I will speak honestly and clearly.

I will speak briefly, using an economy of words to share my thoughts and feelings.

I will speak from my own experience and understanding rather than speaking for others.

I will willingly open myself to the greater discernment of the whole community rather than demanding the outcome I prefer.

I will honor the confidential nature of our work together and share only those things that may be shared with others.

I will be attentive to the emergence of shared wisdom in our dialogue.

Adopted by Council January 2023