

Relational Covenant

As followers of Jesus Christ and as part of the First Congregational Church, we seek to build a beloved community within the church by treating one another with compassion, mercy, and love. We recognize that we will sometimes fall short, hurt one another, and find ourselves in disagreement or conflict. We commit to carrying out the mission of our church that is rooted in the love of God and to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all. We aspire to respect one another in the following ways:

Remember: We will remember the marks of faithful living - approaching one another in genuine love, outdoing one another in showing honor, and practicing humility. (*Romans 12*) We will remember when we speak to only say what is useful and necessary for building up so that our words come as grace to others. (*Ephesians 4:28*)

Experience: We will speak from our own experience even as we make room for the experiences of others. (*1 Corinthians 3:16*)

Support: When someone else has accepted responsibility for completing a task, we will support the process and them in their work. When we discern the movement of the Holy Spirit and make a decision, we will support that outcome. (*1 Corinthians 1:10*)

Pray: We will proceed with the premise that we are all doing the best we can for our community, we will exercise patience in the midst of conflict, and we will bathe all things in prayer. (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*)

Empathize: When we encounter disagreement or difference, we will seek out one another and speak face-to face with openness and empathy. (*Ephesians 4:15*)

Communicate: We will invite and accept the invitation of another to come to a table of reconciliation and will engage an intermediary if necessary in order to communicate in ways that offer healing and forgiveness. (*Matthew 18:16*)

Truth telling: We will strive to be instruments of peace, listening with open, curious, and non-judgmental minds, tempering our anger in love, seeking truth where there is misunderstanding, and trying as hard to understand as to be understood. (*The Prayer of St. Francis*)

<p>The church is committed to supporting you in this process. Should you need or want assistance, please contact Will Garrison in the Church Office and he will connect you.</p>
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