

"Speaking with Courage, Honesty, and Love"

Officers and Staff Communications Covenant

"Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." James 1:19

As a loving body of Christ, we try to communicate with each other as kindly and clearly as possible. Jesus is our role model. With courage, honesty, and love he spoke words that created blessings. We do the same.

1. Knowing that words have the power to bless or destroy, we choose our words to bless, and seek the help of the Holy Spirit to help us speak as Christ wants us to.
2. In moments of disagreement:
 - A. We value differing opinions and seek God's voice above our own.
 - B. We speak directly with those with whom we have a disagreement or miscommunication, be they a group or an individual.
 - We avoid e-communication when emotionally charged.
 - When we talk with a member of a group about our disagreement, we always allow that member to include our name with our information.
 - When in leadership roles, we welcome differing ideas and invite any to come share their voice with us and our committees, but do not take nonspecific or anonymous feedback seriously.
3. In moments of personal conflict:
 - A. We speak directly to the person with whom we are upset, and if we do not feel able to, we may ask the pastor or another to help us do that.
 - B. We resist the temptation to get another to "Fight our battle for us", and say, "No" when asked to by another.
4. We help others reconcile when they are in conflict.
 - A. If two different people come to us concerned about their conflict, we offer to meet with them to help restore their friendship. If they decide that will not be helpful, they will then work it out without others involvement.

"Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other just as the Lord has forgiven you." Colossians 3:13.