

Hope in Christ Church
Relational Covenant

Conviction *We take God's Word seriously*

We believe that God's Spirit among us is producing the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. And we believe that daily, these manifestations of the Spirit will grow and continually transform us from one degree of glory into another.

Galatians 5:22-23, 2Corinthians 3:18

Character *We listen humbly and speak plainly*

- I will listen with an open mind and heart to the opinions, ideas and concerns of others and respond respectfully with thoughtfulness, sensitivity and kindness.
- I will focus on the issues and not the personality of another. I will deal with behaviors and not what I guess another's motive to be. I will respond in love and not react in anger.
- I will value, listen, and take to heart the opinions and perspectives of others, even when different than mine.

James 1:19-20, Ephesians 4:25-32

Care *We love God by loving each other*

- I will value our congregation as a family, encourage one another and invest in relationships with one another.
- I will not stay silent with my concerns, but will share them openly and honestly with the council.
- I will not stay silent with my hurts, but will share them openly, honestly and lovingly with the person who hurt me.
- I will turn away from the temptation to gossip.
- When an open discussion is completed and all have been given an opportunity to present their input, I will support the wisdom of the congregation, Council's leadership and the work of the Spirit among us.

1Corinthians 13:4-7, Matthew 5:23-24, Ephesians 5:21
John 13:35, Acts 15, Galatians 2:11-21

Community *We value friendship over pride*

- I will model the behavior I want to see in others.
- I will accept differing opinions as a healthy part of community life, and if conflict arises, I will engage in conflict resolution rather than ignoring the problem.
- I accept that others may not agree with my view or perspective and I will receive their input graciously and openly, giving them the benefit of the doubt.
- I will maintain a commitment of reconciliation and be forgiving and seek forgiveness.

Luke 6:37, Matthew 6:14, Philippians 2:1-4
Proverbs 18:24, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Each of these behaviors, I will strive to adhere to, God helping me.

Scriptures

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

2Corinthians 3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

James 1:19-20 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Ephesians 4:25-32 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

1Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Matthew 5:23-24 Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

John 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Luke 6:37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Philippians 2:1-4 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Proverbs 18:24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Each of these behaviors, I will strive to adhere to, God helping me.