

VESTRY COVENANT

Recognizing that Holy Scripture will be our authority governing our behavior and relationships with one another and with the congregation, and acknowledging Saint Paul's directive to Timothy (1 Timothy 4:12) concerning his role as church leader to be an example to the believers in speech, life, love, faith, and purity, we therefore agree to the following covenant.

To love one another by:

- Creating and nurturing within the vestry a safe and trusting atmosphere in which all members can feel comfortable and confident in expressing their thoughts and opinions
- Being sensitive to the different styles and personalities of individual vestry members
- Seeking to validate, appreciate, acknowledge, and understand the unique and special gifts of each vestry member

To treat each vestry member with respect by:

- Speaking and acting in such a way as to build up and support one another
- Confronting issues without demeaning anyone
- Refraining from participating in conversations that are unwholesome, divisive, or include gossip, particularly about or from our church leaders
- Suggest that people who are unhappy with the actions of a church leader discuss the issue with that person or speak to the rector *
- Recognizing that certain discussions are of a confidential nature, thus maintaining good and wise judgment in respecting confidentiality
- Confronting with love those individuals who have hurt me in any way
- Following St. Matthew's principle for conflict resolution between individuals: speaking first to the individual alone; if to no avail, bringing in another vestry member to the conversation; and then, if necessary, finally referring the matter to the entire vestry ?
- Practicing forgiveness for those I feel have wronged me
- Seeking to encourage those vestry members who may be suffering through trials of one kind or another
- Nurturing a servant attitude of serving both God and God's church

To seek God's will by striving for unity in all matters through:

- Joining the entire vestry in submitting significant matters to prayer, especially prior to voting or decision-making
- Upholding the final decision of the vestry even when I may disagree
- Always seeking to better understand others
- Submitting to one another in love
- Consciously seeking to abandon personal agendas and self-serving attitudes

To be an example to the congregation by striving to:

- Faithfully attend Sabbath worship and participate in parish activities, including attendance at parishioner's funerals, to the best of our abilities *
- Consistently engage in the study of Holy Scripture
- Live out the Christian life through regular, sacrificial giving, and making an annual pledge to support the ministry and mission of the church
- Be faithful to the CTK mission and vision statement