

What are behavioral covenants?

In Veritas we say, “There is no vitality without reality.” One by one, congregations are confronting their current reality. Admitting the truth is often the first step toward reform. Veritas provides the language for this to happen. The behavioral covenant frames these conversations in a civil, compassionate and Christ honoring way.

In our work and conversations as a commission, we realize that there can be conflict, disagreements, and misunderstandings. We can be guided by healthy norms in order to maintain clear communication and avoid personal assumptions. Therefore, we covenant together in these guidelines for loving relationships and values to guide our ministry:

1. We promise to value each other as gifts from God and will work to live and work in respectful relationships with one another. *John 13:34, Romans 12:10*
2. We promise to value, as a team, the ministry of our commission under the leadership of our PSWC authority. *Hebrews 13:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:13*
3. We promise to make our thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ, to express criticism and negative feelings first, to the person, not to others, and seek reconciliation as far as possible. *Romans 12:18, 2 Corinthians 10:5*
4. We promise to maintain relationships of confidentiality in matters of personal and professional matters. *Proverbs 11:13*
5. We commit to process major strategies and decisions as a team, allowing for emergency situations to be addressed by email or phone. *Isaiah 1:18, Ephesians 4:3*
6. We accept disagreement, conflict and evaluation as normal and natural. In this regard, we will seek to deal constructively with disagreements or conflicts by practicing Matthew 18:15-17. *Matthew 5:23-24*
7. We promise to lead by following the example of Christ. *1 Corinthians 11:1, Titus 2:7*
8. We promise to be good stewards of our together for the benefit of one another and the churches we serve. *Ephesians 6:7*
9. We, as those forgiven by God, seek also to be a forgiving team, offering God’s forgiveness to one another and others with whom we have opportunity to share the forgiving nature of Christ. *Colossians 3:13*
10. We promise to support one another and the work of the commission through prayer. *Colossians 4:2*

More information on behavioral covenants

<http://blogs.covchurch.org/revive/?p=353>