

## COVENANT OF CONDUCT

In order for the congregation and the church council, boards and committees to deal effectively with issues in the congregation, the following guidelines are to be followed:

1. All members affirm their right to express their opinions about the life and ministry of the congregation.
2. The congregation operates with a direct democracy form of government that allows members to share their opinions directly with the pastor, church council, boards and all committees, and at congregational meetings.
3. When members of the congregation express an opinion to a member of any board or committee, the board or committee person shall ask, "What would you like me to do with this information?"
4. If the member desires to have information transmitted to the appropriate body, the member shall be invited to bring the information/opinion to the next meeting of that body.
5. If the member does not wish to appear in person, the board or committee member shall ask to use their name in reporting. If permission is not given, the board or committee person shall say, "I'm sorry but I will not be able to report this to the appropriate board or committee since we do not deal with anonymous letters or comments." If permission is not given, the board or committee member will not pass on the information or opinion to any other person.
6. If permission is given, the board or committee member shall report the information/opinion to the council and use the member's name.
7. At his/her discretion, a board or committee member may ask that the member refer this issue to another board or committee member for presentation.
8. Each issue shall be placed on the agenda and written in the minutes along with the action taken by the appropriate body. Actions may include: "Received as information," "Pastor and/or Chairperson to visit member and report at next meeting," etc.
9. Opinions may be shared in writing with boards, committees or Council and shall be handled in the above mentioned manner if the letter or statement is signed.