

A Behavioral Covenant for Gathering This Day

As Gil Rendle says in his book, *Behavioral Covenants for Congregations*, “these are written documents that are developed by leaders, agreed to and owned...and practiced on a daily basis

as a spiritual discipline. The Covenant answers the question, “How will we live together?”

These covenants proscribe how will we treat one another in all contexts and every context, demonstrating the love of Christ and our core Christian values. For conversations that require careful listening and presence, especially for the work we engage when we may have diverse experience, perspectives, and feelings relevant to the work we are called to; we must seek to respect and honor one another and bear one another’s burdens with intention. These covenants bring clear expectations and intention to the work or setting.

Guidelines for Gathering

In this space we agree to...

- o Speak from our own experience.
- o Listen to seek understanding.
- o Maintain Confidentiality. (Yours is not my story to tell)
- o Practice mutual respect
- o Offer opinions with charity and humility.
- o Communicate clearly, completely, and directly.
- o Participate as fully as possible and agree that this is not the proper space for self-disclosure (Unless you’ve agreed to do so)
- o Actively practice good self-care.