

A Covenant Among Colleagues

Purpose

We join as lay and clergy colleagues for worship, for prayer, for learning, and for living the mission of Jesus. We expect to be a vehicle for growth in discipleship and congregational vitality in ourselves and our congregations.

We will meet monthly for 6 months.

Promises

We promise to

- affirm each other's gifts, faithfulness, efforts, and aspirations for personal growth, ministry and service.
- We will use our individual resources of honesty, courage, insight, spirituality, and love to engage in open and refreshing dialog and learning
- We will attend to the group's growth and learning, through focused presentation, group discussion, worship, and other forms of experience.
- We will honor each other's boundaries and specifically establish our group boundary that information shared in confidence will not be shared outside the group unless that sharing is explicitly negotiated.
- We will lift our group experience and each other in prayer to our God.
- We will maintain confidentiality regarding people's personal information and stories.

Signs

We know we are keeping our promises when

- We feel drawn to each meeting with eagerness
- We find ways to deepen our relationship with God
- We anticipate each other's contributions with positive expectation
- We engage in conversation and learning that enhances our ministry
- While tender with each other, we are also bold to challenge each other
- We show good stewardship of our time together, for example, beginning and ending on time

We know we are straying from this shared commitment when

- Our focus is elsewhere during meetings, meeting after meeting
- We feel our voice is unheard
- We hear our own voice exclusively
- We feel unsafe
- We feel bored

Techniques

- Each session will include
 - Worship
 - Prayer for each other
 - Learning

- Livin' it – how will we apply what we've learned to our church context?