



Moravian Church in America

Southern Province

A Covenant for Christian Conversation

As we meet here today to have conversation about homosexuality and the church, we join in covenant with one another before God.

We covenant to exercise the Golden Rule in all our conversation, following Jesus' admonition: "Here," he said, "is a simple guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative, and do it for them." ("The Message" translation of Matthew 7:12)

When expressing feelings, thoughts or opinions, we know that we can only truly speak for our own experience. We will use "I" statements rather than "you" statements.

We will accept responsibility for our own feelings and our own convictions and claim them as our own.

We covenant to give everyone the opportunity to speak and be heard regardless of whether we agree with his or her opinion, perspective, or theology. If we have been heard, the convener may ask us to yield the floor before speaking again in order for everyone to have a chance to speak.

We covenant to listen to one another without interrupting.

Following Christ's teaching in Matthew 18, we speak directly with a sister or brother with whom we disagree, instead of talking about our disagreement with them behind their backs.

We covenant to be honest with each other and "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). We cannot choose either truth or love without the other. Balancing truth and love together will bring wholeness to our discussions.

Our covenant expands beyond this day's meeting. We will respect the contributions of everyone who is here, now and in the future.

I will not record this event on my phone or other device, nor will I post on social media* about what I have heard at this event.

Every person here is a child of God and a brother or sister in Christ, and we will treat them that way.

To each person around this table, I covenant to honor you as a child of God and as my brother or sister.

Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Throughout this time of discernment in our province, we will continually ask ourselves, Can we truly say, "Come, Lord Jesus, our Guest to be"?

Come, Lord Jesus, our Guest to be,

And bless these children of God and our brothers and sisters around this table, as gifts bestowed by Thee. Amen.

* - Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, blogs, or other internet sites