
Behavioral Covenant of South Church in Andover

We are a Christ-centered community that celebrates the love of God. Although we are of varied minds, we are one body, bound together in Christ. We recognize the uniqueness of every individual as God's beloved child. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call for justice for all creation. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance. We seek to create a sanctuary where all will know they are welcomed and included.

(excerpt from our Welcome Statement)

Grounded in God's love and seeking to be a faithful community, we covenant with one another to:

- begin meetings with prayer;
- welcome different ideas and perspectives;
- share our thoughts and ideas in a kind, honest and respectful manner;
- listen to others with respect, seeking to understand each other's perspective;
- encourage discussion and maintain an atmosphere where people feel safe to express their opinions;
- agree that when we sincerely disagree, we will do so respectfully and as clearly as we can;
- speak directly and honestly to those with whom we have differences;
- apologize when we recognize that our words or actions have caused hurt and practice forgiveness when hurt by others;
- honor the hard work and faithful deliberation of our leaders, boards and committees, respecting their resulting decisions;
- understand and trust that our leaders will strive for transparency, while they must also uphold certain issues as truly private or confidential;
- respect the spiritual journeys of others;
- encourage one another to uphold this covenant.

In all things, and through prayer and reflection, we will strive to be a blessing to our church and its people. With God's guidance and through the example set by Jesus Christ, we will remain open to the dreams that God holds for us.

Adopted by the congregation on June 5, 2016
