

LCC Covenant for Christian Behavior and Communication

(As approved by the Council on July 28, 2022)

Article V, Section 4 of the LCC Constitution and Bylaws provides that “Members are expected to live a life that reflects the values of the Christian life.” While our focus is often on how we treat our neighbors in the community at large, we also have an opportunity, arguably our greatest opportunity, to be a shining example of Christian behavior within our congregation. God has called us together as a church community, and our brothers and sisters in Christ deserve our love, kindness and grace.

In furtherance of our overarching goals to seek to always love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:39) and to place the common good of the congregation ahead of our individual desires (Philippians 2:4), we, as the congregation, employees and volunteers of Lihue Christian Church, covenant to -

- observe boundaries of respectful and appropriate behavior
- have open and respectful conversations and avoiding use of demeaning, inappropriate or unwelcome language
- avoid gossip, slander and inappropriate comments to or about one another
- engage only in respectful, consensual and mutually welcome physical contact
- have a spirit of welcome and inclusion for visitors and members
- seek to reconcile directly when hurt by, or causing hurt to, another person
- seek forgiveness when causing wrongs to others, and readily forgive for wrongs done to us

We also recognize that conflict and disagreement are normal and natural parts of life. We covenant to welcome a wide variety of voices and ideas, when they are expressed in ways that reflect God’s love. As followers of Jesus Christ we promise to respect each other at all times in the following ways –

- approaching all things in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- speaking from our own personal experience, not claiming to represent others
- speaking face-to-face, one-on-one, honestly and without rancor when there is disagreement (Ephesians 4:15)
- listening with an open and non-judgmental mind and trying as hard to understand as to be understood (James 1:19-20)
- asking a third party to assist if the matter cannot be resolved (Matthew 18:16)
- supporting the final outcome of the decision-making process and choosing to forgive one another as God has forgiven us (Luke 11:4)
- showing respect and love in all that we do as we journey together, while accepting that understanding and respecting each other does not necessarily mean agreeing with each other

Finally, as a congregation we will each take responsibility for our own actions and behavior. Any unchristian behavior that conflicts with Christ’s teaching (for example – threatening, taunting, demeaning, harassing, bullying or attacking) will be dealt with according to church policy.