

Communication Covenant Template

Honor the group and every member in it.

Welcome everyone into the conversation and make sure that no one voice dominates. Respect one another as image-bearers of Jesus Christ and communicate in a way that affirms and encourages them in their roles. Be as present in our time together as you can possibly be. Stay curious about each other and listen deeply. This listening takes hard work and focus, but it is one of the most important gifts of good conversation.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Philippians 4:5

Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. Romans 15:2

Build and maintain trust

Accept responsibility for establishing and maintaining interpersonal communications that build up and bless fellow office-bearers, staff, and members of the congregation. Observe and maintain reasonable confidentiality as one of the clearest ways we show the people in our group that we love them and that they can trust us. Listen to understand rather than score points. Believe the best about each other, resist suspicion. Refuse to engage in a posture of complaint, and accept responsibility to help create solutions to problems. Abstain from bickering, back-biting, or blaming.

Let us behave decently. Romans 13:13

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. James 1:19

In humility value others above yourselves. Philippians 2:3

Engage disagreements

Listen intently to others with a goal of understanding their point of view and be gentle in sharing concerns or differing opinions. Respond thoughtfully and gently when others express concerns and opinions with which I may not agree. Speak directly to others rather than about others, using both truth and grace in my speech when there are challenging issues to address. Defuse gossip by informing those who attempt to talk about other people that I will not listen, and by directing them to speak to the person with whom they are concerned.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. Ephesians 4:15

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 2 Timothy 2:24

Reconcile Conflicts

When conflict or complaints arise, follow the process outlined in Matthew 18. Go directly to that person first to express concern with kindness. Speak the truth in love when sharing a concern

or disappointment about a brother or sister's behavior or inaction. Communicate in a way that conveys acceptance and shows a willingness to forget and forgive what might have led to friction in the past.

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. Matthew 18:15

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29

Pursue Unity

We're better together. Our commitment to each other strengthens unity and nourishes life together as the body of Christ. Affirm others' gifts and respect their opinions. Above all, show love through all my communication and interaction with others. Communicate with others in a manner that shows Christian concern and care while seeking collaboration. Be available and open to words from others who speak out when I violate these commitments.

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:12-13