

Trinity Church on the Green Vestry Covenant

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help. (Baptismal Covenant, The Book of Common Prayer)

Recognizing our shared baptismal covenant, and the promises we have made in it to God and to one another, we commit as members of the Vestry to a culture of holy manners and conversation.

We promise to pray for each other, for our clergy and staff, and for the congregation.

We promise to listen actively and communicate directly with one another, nurturing and supporting one another to ensure mutual understanding.

We promise to treat each other with respect, acknowledging that disagreement and conflict are part of the decision-making process but that each of us is united in our love for God and our church. When conflicts do arise, we commit to draw on the wisdom of our Christian tradition—scripture, prayers, hymns, art—to understand the conflict with a broader and deeper context.

We promise to put aside our personal needs and agendas for the good and community of our Vestry, recognizing the need to balance accountability with personal responsibility.

We promise to create a safe place for all to speak during Vestry meetings.

We promise to create and sustain a parish committed to the highest standards of safety for children and the elderly in accordance with Diocesan Safe Church policies.

We promise to support Vestry decisions, even though we might personally disagree with them, especially when we engage with the congregation.

We promise to communicate openly with the congregation while understanding that there may be times when confidentiality is necessary.

We promise to demonstrate our leadership and commitment to our church by our example.

We promise to support our clergy and staff so that their efforts can be most effective.

We promise to be present at all Vestry meetings and functions as much as possible, silencing our mobile devices and (with the exception of emergencies) using electronics only in ways that pertain to the meeting itself—for notes, background information, presentations, etc.

We promise to evaluate our keeping of this covenant regularly in the pursuit of healthy culture for the Vestry itself and the wider congregation.

April 13, 2016