

Manito Presbyterian Church *Communication Covenant*

1. If I have a problem with another person, I will go to them privately.
2. If someone has a problem with me, I want them to come to me privately and I will try to be open when they come.
3. If someone has a problem with me and comes to you, send the person to me. I'll do the same for you.
4. If someone hesitates to speak to the person with whom they have a problem, I will say, "Let's go together. I'm sure they'll see us about this."
5. I will listen to others with compassion and respect, even when I do not agree with their point of view.
6. In my mind, I will separate rumors and gossip from truth and not give them value. In speaking, I will not participate in gossip or spread rumors.
7. I will refuse to listen to rumors and gossip.
8. If it's confidential, I won't tell (unless someone is harming themselves or someone else).
9. I won't send or pay attention to unsigned letters, notes, or unattributed comments. Information should always travel with a person's name so it can be cleared up if necessary.
10. I will not manipulate; I will not be manipulated.
11. When in doubt, I will bring up my concern or question.
12. I will look for and value the gifts and contributions of each person.
13. When I do not have all the information, I will assume the best of you. I will withhold judgment—avoid jumping to conclusions about you—until I have all the needed information.
14. I will be intentional about giving positive feedback and encouragement as often as possible. I will focus my energies on building up, rather than criticizing, others.

By the grace of God, I will strive to uphold these commitments.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Scripture Passages on Christian Communication

Matthew 18:15-17

If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Ephesians 4:15-16

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:29-32

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.