

## A PEACE POD COVENANT

Members of the Peace Pod will agree to honor these commitments and others that they may add to the covenant.

### Preamble

Mindful of Jesus' love for us and his command to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, we covenant to join together in this *Peace Pod* to share our experiences and our prayers with generosity of heart and spiritual discipline, listening for God's sustaining Word and God's call to us as persons of faith and as a community of faith. We will lovingly follow these covenant guidelines in our relationships with each other at church, in our wider community, and in the world to the Glory of God.

### We prayerfully covenant with one another to:

#### Love one another

- Love one another and treat others as we want others to treat us. *John 13:34* and *Matthew 7:12*
- Show respect for each other through our words and actions. *Romans 12:10*

#### Value others and their opinions

- **Encourage** all voices to speak, and recognize that we each bring our own history and experience to any situation. *James 1:19*
- **Listen and ask** questions without judgment and value diverse opinions and ideas. *1 Thessalonians 5:12-13* and *1 Corinthians 12:12*
- **Seek first to understand**, then to be understood—keeping in mind that the Holy Spirit works through all of us. *Proverbs 4:7*, *Acts 2:38*, and *1 Corinthians 12:7*

#### Support relationships in difficult times

- **Address differences** in a respectful, direct, and caring manner. *Ephesians 4:2-3*
- **Work towards self-control**, practicing the fruits of the spirit. *James 1:18-20* and *Galatians 5:22-23*
- **Agree to disagree** without being disagreeable, keeping our minds on what is true, right, holy, friendly, and proper. *Isaiah 41:10*, *Romans 8:28*, and *Philippians 4:8*

#### Work together for the good of the Church

- **Work to discover** what is best for our congregation as a whole, rather than what may be best for ourselves or for a select group in the church. *Philippians 2:3-6*
- **Believe the best** of others and give others the benefit of the doubt. *1 Corinthians 13:7*