

## BINKLEY CHURCH COMMUNITY COVENANT

**We make this covenant to remind ourselves of the ties that bind our hearts in Christian love.**

We, the members and friends of Binkley Baptist Church, affirm these promises:

***We will speak and listen to each other kindly and with respect.***

We treat the other person as if he or she comes from a position of good intent.

We value speaking directly to the person we want to engage.

We listen deeply to understand and appreciate the perspectives and opinions of others.

We practice kindness and respect in all the ways we engage each other, electronically or in person.

We take time to let the other person finish before beginning our response – refrain from interrupting.

***We will welcome diversity of thought, belief, and culture in our community.***

We listen for the voices that are quieter, or slower to make their views heard.

We seek to understand what is important to each person.

We take seriously another person's point of view. We seek to appreciate a variety of spiritual paths.

***We will practice admitting our own part, and making amends when conflicts arise.***

We take time to check our feelings and assumptions before we respond, when feeling hurt or misunderstood.

We practice getting another perspective on what we say and do from a friend who tells us the truth in love.

We ask for forgiveness, when we need to; offer forgiveness, as much as we are able, as long as it takes.

***We will work together to build the common good, and enjoy one another's fellowship.***

We invite each other to join us in projects we love. We love and take care of each other.

We pray for one another in times of rejoicing and of troubles (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).

We take time to be together: to learn, to play, and to share meals together.

***We will ask for help in times of trouble.***

When tension in a relationship continues, we ask for an ally to help us speak truthfully and respectfully with another (Matthew 18: 15-20).

When we fall short of this covenant, we re-commit to these practices.