

Sample Shalom Covenant

Leaders Create the Congregational Climate

Leaders (both formal and informal) create and maintain the climate for an organization. Leaders do this by linking their beliefs and their personal actions. Therefore, it is crucial that there be agreement and commitment among our leadership about how we will honor our relationships. Because they are gifts from God, we must live in ways that strengthen relationships and prevent them from falling into harm. This implies that we, as leaders who follow Jesus, honor Matthew 18, practice forgiveness, and avoid gossip.

To strengthen the body of Christ, you are invited to covenant together to avoid gossip and practice going directly to one another when there is a concern. This involves several specific actions which are listed below.

Shalom-maker Covenant

As a leader of Christ's church here at Shalom Lutheran Church, I promise in the presence of God and community that I will:

- ❖ **Pray** for the relationships in our congregation and for my relationships with others;
- ❖ **Go directly in good faith** to repair or mend my own broken relationships;
- ❖ **Seek to discern** as I listen to others if I am the person to whom any given conversation should actually be directed; (and if I am not)
- ❖ **Encourage** the other person to go directly to the appropriate party;
- ❖ And if they are reluctant, **offer my assistance** to help them go directly to their brother/sister as directed by Jesus.
- ❖ **I will start** by attending to this relationship:

Signed _____ Date _____

Sample Expanded Covenant

Shalom-maker Covenant

As leaders we create and maintain the climate for our community by linking our beliefs and our personal actions. We want to live in ways that strengthen relationships prevent them from falling into harm. Remembering Matthew 18, we seek to practice forgiveness, avoid gossip, and go directly to one another when there is a concern..

As a Council member and servant leader of Christ's church here at Central, I promise in the presence of God and community that I will:

- ❖ **Pray** for the relationships in our congregation and for my relationships with others, especially for the pastors and other council members.;
- ❖ **Go directly in good faith** to repair or mend my own broken relationships;
- ❖ **Listen to others and seek to discern** if I am the person to whom any given conversation should actually be directed; and if I am not I will:
 - **Encourage** the other person to go directly to the appropriate party;
 - **Offer my assistance** to help them go directly to their brother/sister as directed by Jesus.

When gathered at Council and other meetings we pledge to:

- ❖ Remember that we are children of God and love one another.
 - Widen the circle and invite people into the conversation.
 - Respect differences of opinion and listen with our hearts.
 - Listen to all voices, paying special attention to children and elders, and those who may feel disenfranchised
 - Take responsibility for communicating and connecting.
 - Not assume we know what other people are thinking and feeling.
- ❖ Keep focused on our vision
 - Place value on the time we spend together.
 - Commend people personally for sharing their ideas and efforts
 - Laugh, cry and pray together.

We also agree that, as servant leaders of CLC, we will:

- ❖ Take an interest in and be supportive of the overall life and ministry of the congregation
- ❖ Worship regularly as the center and core of life together
- ❖ Participate in the ongoing educational ministry of the congregation to nurture our faith and build community with others here at Central
- ❖ Exercise our financial stewardship responsibility and respond generously in support of our overall ministry.
- ❖ Seek to risk, respond and reach out (keep claiming our vision for ministry) in our life together and through our committee assignments.

Affirmed April 9 by the 2002 Central Lutheran Church Council