**First Look at Relational Covenant for the congregation (draft)**

*At the congregation gathering June 24, we compiled our ideas for how we want to be in relationship and communication with each other. Thanks to Kate Freitag for writing this up with input from Enid Schantz Hagelberg and Joan Beck. Send your comments to Kate Freitag because this is a first draft.*

With the Holy Spirit as our guide, our mission is to invite all to share the joy of God’s love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. As disciples of Christ, we covenant to reflect God’s love by being inviting, non-judgmental, compassionate, and respectful. We will embody our mission in the following ways:

I/we will:

Seek God’s presence and guidance through prayer in all that we do.

Be non-judgmental, kind, friendly, curious, open, welcoming, and forgiving

Respect and embrace our personal, cultural, and generational differences and strive to grow together

Be open to change

Observe basic daily courtesies such as greeting each other when entering a room

Listen in a spirit of learning and love

Always share joy of being with each other.

I/we will not:

Interrupt each other

Gossip

Judge

Ignore others or dismiss their concerns

Forget that we are imperfect and under God’s mercy

In disagreement, I/we will:

Go (directly) when there is a conflict or disagreement

Hold one another accountable to Shalom process

Listen with respect in order to understand and ponder the other perspective(s).

Be open and receptive to gentle, well-meaning intervention when differences arise

Work together

See others through God’s eyes

Respect the perspective of those dissenting.

Maintain the focus of decisions and discussions to be for the good of the Church body.

In disgreement, I/we will not:

Get stuck in the past

Bully or argue

Yell or walk away

Focus on winning

Intentionally or knowingly exclude others