



Resources for the Mutual Ministry Guide

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Covenant of Conduct

*Source: Bridgebuilder Process
Used by permission of Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke*

Covenant of Conduct

In order for the congregation and the church council to deal effectively with issues, the following guidelines are to be followed:

1. All members affirm their right to express their opinions about the life and ministry of the congregation.
2. The congregation operates with a direct democracy form of government that allows members to share their opinions directly with the pastors, church council, commissions, and at congregational meetings.
3. When members of the congregation express an opinion to a member of the council, the council person shall ask, "What would you like me to do with this information?"
4. If the member desires to have the information transmitted to the council, the member shall be invited to bring the information/opinion to the next council meeting. The time and date shall be given.
5. If the member does not wish to appear in person, the council member shall ask the member for permission to use their name in reporting. If permission is not given, the council member shall say, "I'm sorry but I will not be able to report this to the council since we do not deal with anonymous letters or comments".
6. If permission is given, the council member shall report the information/opinion to the council and use the member's name.
7. At his/her discretion, a council member may ask that the member refer this issue to another council member for presentation.
8. Each issue shall be placed on the agenda and written in the minutes along with the action taken by the council. Action may include: "received as information", Pastor and/or President to visit member and report at next meeting", etc.
9. Opinions may be shared in writing with the council and shall be handled in the above mentioned manner if the letter or statement is signed.