



# CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH



## HOLY MANNERS

Holy Manners are promises we make to each other; that is, shared expectations of Christian behaviour we strive to offer to each other. Practicing Holy Manners creates safety within the faith community; we are more likely to experience healthy relationships within the faith community and are better able to create or renew meaningful friendships.

As children of God, we strive to make the following Holy Manners a reality as God continues to fill us with love, recognizing as human beings there will be times when we fail to live up to our covenant promises. It is then that learning to forgive one another, even as we ask God to forgive us, is part of our commitment to Holy Manners.

In our shared life as a faith community, we recognize some among us are more vulnerable than others and that there are power differentials within a faith community. We have developed Duty of Care Policy and Procedures to deal with such power differentials.

We promise, **to the best of our ability:**

- To **LOVE** one another, as God has loved us
- To **RESPECT** one another. Harassment in any form including but not limited to verbal, physical, emotional, spiritual and/or sexual abuse will not be tolerated.
- To use **"I STATEMENTS"** that share our personal thoughts and discourage anonymous complaints
- To **"STEP BACK"** in the midst of difficult issues to allow an opportunity for prayer and reflection
- To **VALUE** different ideas and opinions
- To **MANAGE** conflict in such a manner that there are no winners and losers but respected participants
- To practice **FORGIVENESS** in our interactions with each other
- To demonstrate **PATIENCE** in every situation
- To show **COMPASSION** and **KINDNESS** to everyone in need, recognizing that each one of us carries an inner life that is sometimes fragile, requiring care
- To demonstrate **SENSITIVITY** to another person's circumstances
- To be **FORTHRIGHT** in all our actions and communication, choosing not to live in anonymity

*Appendix 2 ~ Duty of Care Policy and Procedures  
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