

Our relational covenant with one another – Westover Church

In our devotion to our Lord, Jesus Christ, and as we are engaged in God's work at Westover Church, we acknowledge specific behaviors Christ would have us embrace in our interactions with our fellow laborers in His work, realizing that our love for our fellow laborers is second only to our love for Christ and these form the foundation of the ministry in which we engage.

The covenant statement below outlines the behaviors to which all those engaged in the ministries at Westover Church will commit themselves.



Character – I will strive to exemplify character traits reflective of my new nature in Christ, including being loving, respectful, patient, friendly, and trustworthy. As an expression of this character, I will honor my teammates' boundaries by being punctual, respecting schedules, and responding to communication in a timely and thoughtful manner.

- “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.” Romans 12:10
- “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities[b] are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:5-8

Competence - I will strive for excellence in my actions, job functions, performance, giftedness, and passion, holding myself and being willing to be held by others, accountable to the standard to which we have been called. I will view my fellow laborers as team members who God has called to His work, and each person has the freedom to try, fail, and ask for help. I will seek to be a good steward in all that God has entrusted to me, both possessions and relationships.

- “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.” Colossians 3:23
- “But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” 1 Corinthians 12:24-26 (Galatians 6:10, Romans 12:10)]
- “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10

Communication - I will communicate and respond with purpose, honesty, respect, grace, and love. I will listen well and not interrupt others, secure in knowing that my words and those of all team members will be valued and that freedom of expression will always be encouraged. I will not engage in gossip, sidebar or slanderous conversations that diminish a person's value as a child of God.

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- “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” Ephesians 4:15 (Luke 6:36)
- “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” James 1:19
- “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.” Ephesians 4:29 (James 4:11, Galatians 5:15)
- “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” Hebrews 10:24

Conflict - I will address conflict in a timely manner, directly, in person by following Matthew 18, willingly seeking, offering, and receiving forgiveness when a wrong has taken place, even if we agree to disagree.

- “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” Matthew 18:15-17
- “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” (James 5:16, Colossians 3:13)
- “Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Romans 12:12)
- “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” Rom 12:18

Celebration - I will rejoice in the work of God in and through my fellow laborers, will pray for and support other team members, will value and encourage their God-given gifts and abilities, and won't take myself too seriously.

- “Rejoice always” 1 Thessalonians 5:16
- “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” Romans 12:3
- “But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” Heb 3:13
- “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” Phil 4:4

By grace, mercy, prayer, and encouragement, I commit to the following: uphold this covenant in its entirety, lovingly and graciously hold my fellow laborers accountable to this covenant, and maintain an open mind and heart if a fellow laborer approaches me believing I have not held fast to these practices.