

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:11-16

Covenant for the Christian Community of St. Paul's UMC

The purpose of this document is to describe a model of behavior for a Christian Community that fosters growth, respect, peace, love and an embodiment of Christ-like characteristics. An environment that embraces these behavioral norms allows for open discussion, amiable disagreement, and an opportunity for a purpose to be served greater than each one of us as individuals. By having individuals and groups within St. Paul's strive to follow the guidelines in their interactions with others (in person, by telephone, or use of electronic media), we can expect to see the fruits of the Spirit appear in our works.

- Work for the common good of God's community.
- Be accountable for what you say and do.
- Treat people with love and respect.
- Do not be a party to gossip.
- Consider and respect other perspectives. Gather information with clarifying questions and do not make assumptions.
- Voice your concerns in an appropriate forum where a discussion can lead to positive outcomes and not in private venues without the benefit of the broader perspective.
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality when it is requested or expected.
- Propose positive changes instead of negative complaints.
- Talk with someone if you have an issue with them. Do not talk behind their back.
- Handle difficult and painful relationship issues with PRAYER!