

First Christian Church of Blue Springs  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Behavioral Covenant  
Established February 2023

As Christians and members of First Christian Church of Blue Springs, we join with all Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ "DOC") as "a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one Body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us." (DOC Identity Statement)

As leaders and as a congregation we wish to model Christ-like love and behavior, even in times of discord or disagreement. Therefore, as kindred in Christ we agree to abide by this covenant.

1. We will remember that all of us share the same love of First Christian Church and we will always assume the best of intentions of one another and remain flexible and open and positive in our work together. -*Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:12-15*
2. We will create an environment that is open to new ideas and change through collaboration and communication. -*Romans 12:2*
3. We will listen carefully to differing viewpoints and summarize what is heard before responding. We will seek as much to understand as to be understood. -*James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13*
4. We will take responsibility for our own actions and behaviors and apologize when we have offended another. -*James 5:16; Colossians 3:13*
5. We will pray regularly for one another and support each other. -*James 5:16*
6. We will practice Jesus's teaching by going directly to the person with whom we have an issue. And when someone comes to us with a grievance against another member, we will not engage in gossip, but encourage them to resolve their grievance by going directly to that person. -*Matthew 5:23-24*
7. We will speak for ourselves, not others, communicating honestly, respectfully, and directly to each other using the first person "I." -*Acts 26:1; Ephesians 4:29*
8. We will graciously accept when our idea is not implemented and will be willing to yield and compromise when differences require it for the benefit of the community. -*Ephesians 4:13*
9. We will honor and respect the leadership of the church, the church staff, leadership team and lay leaders. -*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*
10. We will serve in the church with attitudes of joy and generosity, always looking for ways to invite others to join in that service with gracious hospitality and love. -*Psalms 100:2*

*I agree to honor this behavioral covenant as part of my partnership with the faith community at First Christian Church of Blue Springs.*

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Signature

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Date

## SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

### All from the New Revised Standard Version

1. *“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about<sup>[a]</sup> these things. -Philippians 4:8*  
  
*“Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord<sup>[a]</sup> has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ<sup>[b]</sup> rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” -Colossians 3:12-15*
2. *“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” -Romans 12:2*
3. *“You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.” -James 1:19*  
  
*“If one gives answer before hearing, it is folly and shame.” -Proverbs 18:13*
4. *“Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” -James 5:16*  
  
*“Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord<sup>[a]</sup> has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” -Colossians 3:13*
5. *“pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” -James 5:16*
6. *“So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.” -Matthew 5:23-24*
7. *“Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself” -Acts 26:1*  
  
*“Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up,[a] as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear” -Ephesians 4:29*
8. *“until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity,<sup>[a]</sup> to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” -Ephesians 4:13*
9. *“But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” -1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*
10. *“Serve the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing” -Psalm 100:2*