**Conflict Covenant**

In keeping with the plea of Jesus that his followers live in unity *(John 17:11-26)* so that our witness to who Jesus is not be diminished, we covenant together that we will strive to achieve the following by adhering to the goals and processes described below.

The Goals:

1. To live by the principles of the Bible as taught by Christ and other authors writing under the leading of the Holy Spirit.
2. To grow in my quest for spiritual maturity for my benefit and that of others.

The Process:

1. To take responsibility for my own actions.
2. To seek reconciliation with other persons even when I feel I have not acted inappropriately.
3. To go directly to a person with whom there is tension and possible disagreement as soon as possible after those issues become known to me.
4. To refrain from talking about my conflicts to others outside of that person’s presence except as it pertains to receiving counsel for my benefit.
5. To work at separating the *issue* from the *person* with whom there is disagreement.
6. To discern the relative importance of things, allowing people the freedom of their own opinions.
7. To find appropriate ways of working through a disagreement or conflict instead of denying or avoiding it, especially if that denial or avoidance results in polluting other issues or relationships.
8. To work with integrity at understanding the perspective of the other person(s) with the same level of energy that is used in expecting the other to understand the issue from my perspective.
9. To solicit the help of others when a conflict threatens to become destructive,

(In such situation, it is ideal for the two parties to agree on who might be able to help them with their issue(s). It may also be appropriate for one party to ask another to assist him/her in communicating with another person, but never as an ally on the *issue*, only as an ally in the *process*.)

1. To receive the counsel of others when I fail to live by these commitments in an effort to build the effectiveness of our living together in our worshipping community.

My Commitment: *(optional)*

Believing that these principles are in keeping with the example of Christ and His teachings, I commit myself to live by them.

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Name Date

*Psalm 34:14, Jeremiah 29:7, Matthew 5:9, Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 5:43-48, Matthew 7:12, Romans 12:9-21, Romans 13:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, Ephesians 2:14-18, 1 Peter 2:20b-21*