

A Covenant for Members of the BABC Church Council:

1. We acknowledge that we were selected to function as a spiritually discerning group, to make decisions on behalf of the membership of our church, and to continue to build, by our example, a Spirit-led community of faith, keeping each other in prayer.
2. We will practice active listening. We will not talk over each other, and we will consider seriously points raised by others on the Council. We will accept decisions made by the Council and work together to implement those decisions in and through the life of our church.
3. We may, after our discussions, still disagree on this or that issue, but we will not be disagreeable towards each other in consequence. We may attack issues or positions, but never people.
4. We will trust each other to be speaking from good motives and out of both a love of the Lord and a love for His church. In this context, we recognize that God can be honored both through the lives of the people who worship in and work from this church and through the influence and effect our church has and can have in the world in which we live. We recognize the duty we share to probe and question, so as to bring clarity to statements made and to positions taken. In all such efforts, we will respect the rights of others to hold and to espouse views that differ from our own.
5. We pledge to be transparent about our positions and views and about the agendas we pursue. We will not condone the actions of anyone who promotes a hidden agenda or who manipulates or distorts in the furtherance of any goal.
6. We will seek to keep conversations and discussions focused on a high level, meaning that we will seek, as much as possible, to delegate to teams and groups the details of carrying out Council and Church decisions.
7. We pledge to share with all members of the Council what we know and think about church matters under consideration, and to resist any temptation to form cliques in which a few, but not all, know something germane.

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A Covenant for Members and Guests who attend meetings of the Church Council:

1. We will abide by the spirit of the Council's Covenant, as listed above.
2. We recognize that while we have the right to be present, the Council has work to do and thus may not entertain participation from members and guests in attendance. We will therefore sit where we can observe but remain quiet so the Council can discuss and deliberate.
3. If we have matters that we want the Council to consider, we will submit them through the portal the Council provides for receiving such communications, thus allowing the Council to decide if and when to take up such matters. Unless specifically invited for the purpose, we will not come to a Council meeting expecting to be heard.