



BEING TOGETHER

Expectations of behaviour in our church community

Jesus told us to love one another as he loves us. As Christians we know our life together is strengthened when our behaviour is consistent with our faith. However, our experience of being together can be difficult, particularly when there are differences. So it is important to be clear about how we will behave towards each other.

Being a community:

- We will value the wellbeing of others.
- We will encourage each other to participate in the life of the church.
- We will consider the impact of our behaviour on others.

Relating to each other:

- We will treat each other with respect and dignity, irrespective of ability, gender, sexuality, race, age or contribution to the church.
- We will act with integrity and honesty in our interactions with each other.

Communicating with each other:

- We will communicate respectfully with others, and not in a way that threatens, belittles or humiliates.
- We will speak with integrity and honesty, and refrain from speculation and gossip.

Acknowledging difference:

- We will respect those who are different from us and not isolate or ridicule them.
- We will listen to and seek to understand the beliefs, opinions and practices of others, even when we do not share their views.

Responding to conflict:

- We will accept responsibility for our part in a conflict.
- We will be willing to play our part in resolving a conflict.

Promoting Safety:

- We will promote behaviours that support the physical,¹ psychological², social³, spiritual⁴ and moral⁵ safety of all people.

(Promoting Safety added by DC January 2019 all other parts as adopted by General Synod 2014).

¹ *Physical Safety - anything people need to stay alive and derive a sense of health and well-being in the world*

² *Psychological Safety - the pursuits individuals must follow to be healthy within himself or herself and balance his or her needs with those of others*

³ *Social Safety - the ability to be part of a group without experiencing or engaging in behaviours or activities that destroy the integrity of the individual or the group*

⁴ *Spiritual Safety - enabling opportunities for people to learn of the riches of faith and to explore them in ways that are appropriate to their own stories and journeys*

⁵ *Moral Safety - Operating from a system of values that are consistent, that guide behaviour, and that are founded on a deep respect for each other, all living things and God.*