

Litany for Disciples

(based on *Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement*)

Each of us is on a journey, growing in faithfulness, witnessing to the mercy and love granted to us by God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus calls us to be disciples as we seek to be faithful to God's will in our lives and ministries.

As followers of Jesus Christ we promise to be guided by the following practices:

We will treat each other with respect, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ.

In a spirit of love and trust, with God's help, we will.

When we are faced with conflict and hold deep convictions, we will learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.

In a spirit of love and trust, with God's help, we will.

When it is difficult to hear others with a different opinion, we will state what we have heard and ask for clarification in an effort to understand before we respond.

In a spirit of love and trust, with God's help, we will.

Because we are all members of the one body of Jesus Christ,

we commit to focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity.

Knowing we are the beloved of a loving Creator,

we commit to share our personal stories about the subject of disagreement so that others may fully understand our concerns.

Seeking to uphold the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,

we will state where we agree with each other as well as where we disagree.

Following the teachings of Jesus.

we will share our concerns directly with the individuals or groups with whom we disagree.

Honoring the bond of our common baptism,

we will seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion be vigorous and full of tensions.

Asking God's grace,

we will work to listen attentively, speak clearly, and remain open to God's vision of peace for all that we may lead lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Amen.

This litany is based on work originally done by Viki Brooks-McDonald, adapted by Eastminster Presbytery, and further adapted by the staff of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, a ministry of the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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