

**BEHAVIORAL COVENANT**  
For the Annual Meeting of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference

We covenant with one another to be attentive to these guidelines as we discuss the business of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. In a spirit of trust and love, we will:

***Give them a hearing (John 7:51)***

We acknowledge that treating one another with respect builds trust, therefore we will keep our conversations and communications open to honest exchange of ideas and opinions

We will ask questions and make statements in ways which do not intimidate, disparage, or judge others

***Listen before answering (Proverbs 18:13)***

We will listen carefully, faithfully, and prayerfully.

We will avoid formulating our responses while another person is speaking

We will NOT presume to know the motives or experiences of others without asking for clarification

We will be open to learn from the perspectives and experiences of others.

***Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)***

We will share our concerns in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teaching.

We will focus on ideas and suggestions, without challenging the motives, intelligence or integrity of other persons.

We will not engage in or tolerate name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during or following discussions.

We will speak only for ourselves, express our own thoughts and feelings, and refer to our own experiences.

We will avoid broad generalizations.

***Maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3)***

We pledge to stay in community with one another even when the discussion is vigorous or full of tension

We will respect decisions of the majority.

When we disagree with the majority, we will work for changes in ways which are consistent with these guidelines and the rules for procedure.

We will pray for God's grace to help us listen attentively, speak clearly, and remain open to God's vision.

We do not pray for our will to prevail, but for God's will to be done.