

Covenant for Civility (from Sojourners Magazine)

Introduction:

"As Christian pastors and leaders with diverse theological and political beliefs, we have come together to make this covenant with one another, and to commend it to the church, to faith-based organizations, and to individuals, so that together we can contribute to a more civil national discourse. We can offer a message of hope and reconciliation to a people that is deeply divided by political and cultural differences. Too often we have reflected the political divisions of our culture, rather than the unity we have in the body of Christ."

Covenant

"We come together to urge those who claim the name of Christ to 'put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, wrangling, and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.' "

We need to behave differently, for both the sake of our spiritual integrity and the health of our democracy. We have forgotten some of the key values of faith, respect, truth, honesty, humility, patience, kindness, confession, forgiveness, prayer, and the unity of the body of Christ. It is time to recover them again. **Let the change we call for begin with us.**

- 1) We commit that our dialogue with one another reflect the spirit of scripture. . ."Quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."
- 2) Believing that all human beings are created in the image of God, we show honor and respect to one another, particularly in the way we speak to one another.
- 3) We pledge that when we disagree, we will do so respectfully.
- 4) We will always be mindful of the language we use in expressing our disagreement.
- 5) We know that we cannot function together as members of the same community unless we are mindful of how we treat one another.
- 6) We commit to pray for all of our leaders--those with whom we agree or disagree.
- 7) We believe that it is more difficult to hate others, when we are praying for them.