

Covenant of Understanding

Synod Council of the Allegheny Synod

Mission Statement: Called by God to be one in Christ: we worship, grow in faith, and serve all people.

Romans 12:4-8: For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The installation rite for members of Synod Council asks: Will you assume the office to which you have been elected and will you endeavor to carry out its duties faithfully, to the glory of Christ our Lord and in service to the one holy church?

As God's people called together for service of the Allegheny Synod and Christ's church, the expectations of Allegheny Synod Council members are:

Uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of the Allegheny Synod and the ELCA. As an elected leader of the Allegheny Synod, Synod Council members are expected to abide by and uphold the constitution of the Allegheny Synod and the ELCA.

Confidentiality. Synod Council meetings are open to visitors, except when the council moves into Executive Session. When an issue is brought to the Synod Council in Executive session, it is confidential. Confidential means that nothing about the issue is shared with anyone who is not on Synod Council verbally, written or electronically.

Attendance. Synod Council members are expected to attend all scheduled meetings either in person or via electronic means unless they are excused by the Synod Vice President.

Respectful dialogue and behavior. Believe the best about each other—even when there are opposing viewpoints on an issue. Speak kindly to and about other members of Council and anyone involved. Create a safe space for the protection of each member by being respectful at all times. Apologize when you are wrong, own your actions and refrain from blame.

Be a positive representation of the Allegheny Synod. Strive to put the best light on our Synod, its congregations and leadership in all interactions.

Be accountable to each other. When you know another member of Council has broken an expectation, hold them accountable with respect and care.

Work together in a spirit of cooperation and flexibility. Find ways to work together for the good of the Allegheny Synod and its members. Be adaptable and open to change.