

Our Covenant as God's Diverse Church

We are not alone!

We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers.

We come as pilgrims to this gathering of sisters and brothers in Christ.

We come with our own cultural values, assumptions, worldviews, gifts, and insights.

The fullness of life includes moments of unexpected inspiration and courage lived out,
experiences of beauty, truth, and goodness,
blessings of seeds and harvest,
friendship and family, intellect and sexuality,
the reconciliation of persons through justice and communities living
in righteousness,
and the articulation of meaning.

We are each given particular gifts of the Spirit for the sake of the world.

Each one of us, and the cultures we represent,
are God's living letters of faith, hope, love, and beauty.

In grateful response to God's abundant love,
we bear in mind our integral connection to the earth and one another;
we seek to participate in God's work of healing and mending creation.

Acknowledging all that we have said we do—and do not—want to bring into our intercultural space, we covenant to honour God and promote right relationships between us as we worship together and learn from one another.

We covenant to relate to one another with:

Respectfulness, humility, patience, open mindedness,
and the spirit of grace and forgiveness we have received in Christ Jesus.

We will hold our beliefs and opinions with grace,
and hold one another in prayer;
seeking at all times to be agents of peace and reconciliation.

Acknowledging our fear, leaning into God's hope and courage,
trusting God's Spirit and each other,
filled with God's wisdom, patience and love,

We will listen to others with our whole selves:
our physical senses, intuition, imagination, and intellect,

We will speak for ourselves in the spirit of truth and gentleness,
avoiding unhelpful generalizations and racial stereotypes,

We will not interrupt when others are speaking,

We will affirm the deep wisdom of silence and pause, as necessary,
to ponder what others have said,

We will seek to understand rather than win arguments,

We will leave space for anyone who wishes to speak for the first
time before speaking a second or third time ourselves,

Grateful for God's loving actions,
creating and seeking relationships in awe and trust,
we witness to Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love.

We are not alone! Thanks be to God!

Amen!

*RiverRunning: An Intercultural Conference, Winnipeg, November 2009,
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