

## **ELCA Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust Reconsiderations Task Force Group Covenant - 2026**

**About:** *This covenant was developed by the task force to guide their discussions and work. It is a living document that is reviewed at each task force meeting to ensure that the covenant continues to meet the needs of the task force as they lead the church in this work.*

“...the ELCA be urged to concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreement.” (ELCA, 2005)

As a task force of the church, we humbly agree to be guided in our work by these values and expectations. This covenant is a living document and will develop as our needs and realities change.

### **Faith**

- We will trust in God and look with expectation for signs of the Holy Spirit at work.
- We will remember that we are all part of the body of Christ and devote ourselves to that greater Body, desiring to stay healthy and intact.
- We strive to discern God’s will for the church and to share in God’s work.

### **Trust and Graceful Accountability**

- We will assume the best intentions of one another but be accountable for the impact of our own words and ideas.
- We will let go of the need to be correct but cling to the need for growth.
- We will “call people in” rather than “call people out” when someone makes a mistake, seeking to maintain relationship rather than shaming one another.
- We will not share content of conversations or information about one another on social media or in conversations outside the task force.

### **Curiosity**

- We will be curious, active listeners, seeking to understand one another’s perspectives and ideas before reacting.
- We will create space for us to be ourselves, so we can meet each other where we are.

### **Respect**

- We will treat each other with respect and avoid assumptions or prejudgments.
- We will create space for people to process their words and ideas without interrupting or rushing them. We will remember that people need different amounts of time to process.

### **Awareness**

- We will be aware of our own biases and open to graceful accountability and growth.
- We will use “I” statements, speaking only for ourselves and only asking others to speak for themselves.

### **Courage**

- We will say “the thing” even if we are not sure how to say it and allow others to do the same.
- We will hold courageous conversations by challenging ideas, not people, and allowing for discomfort to lead growth.

### **Creativity**

- We will leave room for playfulness.
- We will work together to find creative solutions.
- We will sing.