
Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church—Bridge Builder Team

From the Health Crew

G.A. Code of Conduct

Appendix C: Covenant of Conduct
(following page 11 of Bridge Builders Report)

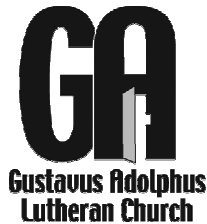
What is Covenant? The *Ecclesiastical definition*: a solemn agreement between the members of a church to act together in harmony with the precepts of the Gospel.

The Gospel: Matthew 18:15-22

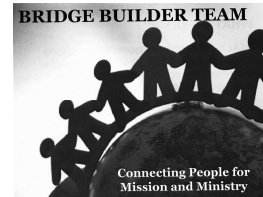
¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” ²¹Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.”

In order for the congregation and the congregational council to deal effectively with issues, the following guidelines are to be followed:

1. We are Children of God. As Children of God we affirm our right to express in love and respect our opinions about the life and ministry of the congregation.



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GA Code of Conduct continues

2. We regard one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. As brothers and sisters we encourage family members to share opinions with the pastor, church council, and the congregation.
3. When a brother or sister expresses an opinion to a member of the council, the council person shall ask, “What would you like me to do with this information?”
4. If the family member desires to have the opinion given to the council, the brother or sister shall be invited to bring the opinion to the next council meeting. The date and time shall be given.
5. If the family member does not wish to appear in person, the council member shall ask the brother or sister for permission to use his or her name in reporting. If permission is not given, the council member shall say, “I’m sorry, but I will not be able to report this to the council because we do not regard anonymous letters or comments.”
6. If permission is given, the council member shall report the opinion to the council and use the name of the brother or sister.
7. At his/her discretion, a council member may ask that the family member refer this issue to another council member for presentation.
8. Each issue shall be placed on the agenda and written in the minutes, along with action taken by the council. Action may include, “received as information,” “pastor and/or president to visit member and report at next meeting,” etc.
9. Opinions may be shared in writing with the council and shall be handled in the above-mentioned manner if the letter or statement is signed.
10. Forgive, seventy-seven times.