

## Holy Manners – A litany – 1

by Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, 2023

**One Voice:** Called together by Christ  
as a community of broken but hopeful believers,  
striving to be faithful servants of God  
in our time and place as we offer our varying gifts,

**Many Voices:** ***We commit to keeping God at the center of everything we do;***

**One Voice:** We confess, that we have not always lived up our vision of  
community, we need the Spirit to reorient us, to live an  
emerging faith, challenging us to live by grace rather than  
entitlement,

**Many Voices:** ***We commit to be truthful in our communications by:  
speaking for ourselves; and speaking purposefully;***

**One Voice:** We are called as a diverse community of people celebrating  
our differences;

**Many Voices:** ***And so, we commit to honouring our intercultural vision  
through welcoming the conflict of ideas; making space for the  
full and equitable participation of all, enabling especially  
people who are quiet to speak; being mindful of our body  
language; listening carefully without interruption and  
separate people from problems;***

**One Voice:** We are called to be bold disciples,

**Many Voices:** ***As we live into our call to discipleship we will hold one  
another to account when we do not keep to our  
commitments;***

***We will take a future orientation in our discussions and  
imagination; demonstrate appreciation; And honouring the  
decisions of the body;***

**One Voice:** We are called to lead in hope with purpose and vision as

members of a community held and inspired by God, partnering with God in the mending of the world

***Many Voices: So, we commit to keeping the discussion at the table and to be faithful stewards of our time.***

***All: We affirm that we are Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, to offer leadership to The United Church of Canada as it seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice. Amen***

## **Holy Manners – A litany – 2**

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*Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.*

**As Leaders,**

**We commitment to living deeply into our spirituality through spiritual practices demonstrated in our ability to *keep God at the center of everything we do;***

***We commit, in our meetings we will respond to the call of Deep discipleship by: speaking for ourselves;***

***speak with purpose;***

***separating people from problems;***

***allowing for full and equitable participation;***

***creating the space for the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and sincerely say what we really feel.***

***attending to others carefully without interruption;***

***being mindful of our body language;***

***welcoming the conflict of ideas;***

***demonstrating appreciation;***

***keeping the discussion at the table;***

***honouring the decisions of the body;***

***exercising faithful stewardship in the use of time;***

***committing to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;***

And, as we practice daring justice, we will be courageous in taking a future orientation to our decisions and strategies. Amen