

Wyman Memorial Church of St. Andrew  
Marblehead, Massachusetts

**Relational Covenant**

When we became Christians we entered into covenant with God through Baptism.

In renewing our Baptismal Covenant we are asked these two questions:

- “ Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?” and
- “ Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?”

We answer them with the words, “I will, with God’s help,” recognizing that good relationships with others are sometimes difficult to sustain, and recognizing our need for God’s grace in the fulfilling of these promises.

As we read in the letter to the Colossians ...

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other, and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (Col. 3:12-14)*

We therefore covenant ourselves together to relate to each other in a spirit of mutual respect and strive to maintain the emotional and physical well being of each other – actions that are fundamental to the Christian precept to “love thy neighbor as thyself”.

Let us then, therefore, use these principles to guide our actions...

- **We will seek to openly share our thoughts with others and voice opinions in the appropriate parish forums.**
- **We will treat others whose views may differ from our own with the same courtesy we would want to receive ourselves;**
- **We will listen with a sincere desire to understand the point of view being expressed by another person, especially if it is different from our own;**
- **We will respect each other's ideas, feelings and experiences;**
- **We will be non-blaming and non-judgmental in our attitude and behavior towards others;**
- **We will communicate directly with persons with whom we may disagree in a respectful and constructive way;**
- **We will place primary emphasis on where we share common ground rather than on differences and disagreements;**
- **We will seek feedback to ensure that we have truly understood each other in our communications.**

**By entering this covenant, we will affirm and support each other in our respective faith journeys.**

**Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi**

*O Lord, make me an instrument of Thy Peace!  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is discord, harmony.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light, and  
Where there is sorrow, joy.*

*Oh Divine Master, grant that I may not  
so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal  
Life.           Amen*