

A Behavioral Covenant for Group Conversations and Forums

Behavioral Covenants* have been very important aids to individuals, institutions and congregations engaged in sensitive discussions. The Open and Affirming Committee encourages use of this covenant during ONA programming.

Covenant

Our purpose is to promote understanding.

We will treat each other with caring and respect, as God's beloved children.

We will take time for prayer.

We will speak in the first person "I", and from our own experience.

We will speak one at a time.

We will listen for understanding, especially when we seem to disagree.

We will speak and seek the truth in love.

We will allow each other equal "air time."

We will ask questions for clarification, not for judgment.

*Source (with modifications): <http://www.ctucc.org/resources/behavioralcovenant-sbs0304.html>

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