

A SAMPLE COVENANT FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

by Kenneth Williams, Ph. D.

As God's children, relying on His life within us we, the _____, in light of our shared vision to serve God and our desire to glorify Him, commit ourselves to love one another and to:

- accept one another as Christ accepts us.
- seek to build one another up in Christ.
- care for one another's practical needs.
- be vulnerable with one another, expressing our true needs and doubts, knowing that prayer and acceptance will accompany us.
- graciously speak the truth to each other and hear the truth from one another in a spirit of love.
- avoid gossip and slander, and to keep one another from doing so.
- keep short accounts with one another, being quick to forgive, so that grudges might not develop.
- bear with one another when we find ourselves being impatient with each other.
- refuse to compare ourselves with each other.
- seek the highest degree of consensus possible on major decisions.
- work together in spite of differences of opinion and expectations, while having freedom to discuss them.
- make an effort to understand and respect each other's point of view.
- avoid judging each other.
- seek the Lord's direction together in prayer when we disagree.
- be accountable to each other to fulfill this covenant.

Signed this ____ day of _____, at _____