

# Covenant for the Nordic & Baltic Roundtable

What are the covenantal practices that are so essential to our work together that we must perform them with excellence in order to fulfill our mission?

- We covenant to pray regularly for one another, for the Episcopal Area, for the United Methodist Church, for the mission of Christ, and for our future together.
- We covenant to attend all meetings unless unexpected urgencies prevent us, to prepare adequately for meetings by reading assigned books or papers, to stay engaged and focused, to participate actively in learning experiences and conversations, and to follow through with any assignments or projects that we agree to accept. We will offer our best and highest to the work of the Round Table as servants of Christ and leaders of the church.
- We covenant to treat one another with respect, to assume the best in others, to represent one another in the best possible light, to speak the truth with love, and to practice and expect trustworthiness. We will each do our part to offer grace, to create an atmosphere of hospitality, and to moderate our anxiety through mutual encouragement, good humor, and with genuine love for one another.
- We covenant to let our discussion be informed by the Bible.
- We covenant to listen actively to others, to seek first to understand rather than to be understood, to ask for clarity or help from others, to remain attentive to cultural, language, and contextual diversity, to be patient with one another, and to foster hopefulness and mutual encouragement.
- We covenant to maintain confidentiality, and so we will avoid sharing of personal information, stories, or perspectives of other members without their consent.

What behaviors are so harmful that they put the success of our work at risk?

- We covenant to avoid harmful speech toward or about others on the Round Table, during our meetings and outside our meetings. We will refrain from blaming others, misrepresenting others, making judgments about others, or using derogatory speech about others or the Round Table.
- We covenant to avoid the practices of interrupting others, ignoring others, discounting others, speaking for others. We will gently hold one another accountable for divisive or hurtful behaviors.
- We covenant to avoid dividing into factions and retreating into camps based on ideology or regional affinities. We will intentionally seek to cultivate deeper relationships with those we do not know rather than merely spend time with those we already know.
- We covenant to restrain ourselves from distracting behaviors during our meeting sessions so that we may remain attentive to one another and to our work. We will refrain from checking emails, reading online news, and otherwise letting ourselves become distracted for outside obligations.

Additional Commitments:

We will use Matthew 18 as a model for how to work with each other.

Members who determine that they cannot continue to serve on the Round Table will inform the bishop of their decision, and the bishop will communicate this to the other members of the Round Table and to the member's annual conference council. After the second meeting members will not be replaced. Members who leave the Round Table are asked to maintain the Covenant.

*Approved by the Nordic and Baltic Roundtable 26. October 2019*