Norms for Decision-Making

First Presbyterian Church

2019-2020 Session

1. We will cultivate a safe environment by respecting one another. We will refrain from personal attacks or other displays of disrespect.
2. We will maintain transparency by making and implementing decisions in accordance with the *Book of Order*, our Manual of Operations, and federal and state law. We will not attempt to enact our own agendas through end-arounds past people, procedures, or structures in the congregation.
3. We will bring clarity to our decision-making process by sharing information and by dismantling information silos in our congregation. We oversee the work of various ministry teams, but we’re all on the same team.
4. We will be open and honest with each other. We will not tell lies or half-truths.
5. We will consider all sides before making a decision, and then fully support the decision that was made.
6. We will adopt measurable goals that align with our principles as a church of Jesus Christ. We will hold each other accountable for achieving these goals without blaming each other or dwelling on what didn’t work. We trust that others are doing their best.
7. We will adapt to changing conditions. We will be forward-looking in our decision-making.
8. We will maintain a positive attitude. We won’t lose our sense of humor along the way.
9. We will use a wide variety of techniques to elicit a wide range of viewpoints. These include small and large group discussions and written and oral communication.
10. As the need arises, we will make space throughout the meeting to be silent, to pray, and to recall and share words of scripture with each other. The best decision is the one that “seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us” (Acts 15:28).
11. Session meetings will ordinarily last no longer than two hours.