

# Appendix C

## Sample of a Covenant for Communal Discernment by Victoria G. Curtiss

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As Christians called to model the body of Christ, we will:

- ▶ Be intentional in developing relationships with one another in order to build and maintain Christian community and foster trust, even when discussion may at times be tense;
- ▶ Rely on prayer, Scripture, listening, and deep engagement with Christ and each other;
- ▶ Act in a spirit of truth and love, honoring the truth that God works through each member of the body;
- ▶ Engage in conversation and ongoing study together in such areas as Scripture, theology, church, vocation, and gifts of the Holy Spirit;
- ▶ Share adequate information with the whole body;
- ▶ Learn about the various perspectives on the topic;
- ▶ Use I-messages to speak openly and transparently regarding one's intentions, concerns, values, and interests;
- ▶ Speak from our personal experiences related to the subject;
- ▶ Listen attentively and with respect and openness to our sisters and brothers, believing that all desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ;
- ▶ Respond after restating what we have heard and asking for any clarification;
- ▶ Focus on ideas instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence, or integrity;
- ▶ Refrain from name calling or using labels;
- ▶ Desist from "calling for the question" in order to remain open to the vision God holds for us all and to find win/win solutions where possible; and
- ▶ Articulate what the largest portion of the body senses is the leading of the Holy Spirit.

