

COVENANT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOSÉ
(Proposed addendum September 24, 2011)

In light of the passage of Amendment 10A and the New Form of Government,

We reaffirm the 2004 Covenant of the Presbytery of San José (stated below) and that it is the intent of the presbytery to recognize our various theological convictions; respect the sincerity with which they are held; and not force other congregations and people to live by standards that are not in keeping with their understanding and interpretation of Scripture.

COVENANT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOSÉ
(Originally adopted September 25, 2004 and adapted September 1, 2011)

We are Elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Presbytery of San José who find in Christ's love for us the capacity to love each other across the lines of theological and political differences. In gratitude for the gift of God's love, we will make every effort to:

Believe the best about each other. With all of our differences we name the same Lord and Savior, seek to serve the same God, and advance the work of the same Church.

We will deal openly with each other and keep those with whom we disagree informed about our intentions.

We will neither speak disparagingly of those with whom we disagree nor be silent when others do.

Avoid confrontations that create winners and losers.

Though some votes on divisive issues may have to be taken to make decisions and forge direction, we pledge to seek ways to form a common mind.

Though judicial action is an option provided by the constitution of our denomination we pledge first to seek other ways to understand and be reconciled to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Commit to serious, on-going Biblical study and prayer.

We will engage in Biblical and theological study together, to deepen understanding of our call to lead holy lives that proclaim God's righteousness and peace.

We will pray for God's guidance and for each other, so that we may faithfully serve God, follow Jesus Christ, and be guided by the Holy Spirit.