

## Rules for Respect

In every Letter of Agreement I have had with congregations, and now with the Diocese of Olympia I have asked that the “Rules for Respect” spelled out below be made part of the agreement. I first saw these in an article by Church of the Nazarene pastor Charles Christian. I think they are quite helpful in framing our communication and life together. I vow to do my best to follow them and invite you to do the same. We will all fail, but through gentle challenge and loving encouragement these can become a foundation for healthy communication for us all. Blessings to you! Greg

### *10 Rules for Respect*

1. **If you have a problem with me, come to me** (privately).
2. **If I have a problem with you, I will come to you** (privately).
3. **If someone has a problem with me and comes to you, send them to me.** (I’ll do the same for you)
4. **If someone consistently will not come to me, say, “Let’s go to Greg together. I am sure he will see us about this.”** (I will do the same for you.)
5. **Be careful how you interpret me—I’d rather do that.** On matters that are unclear, do not feel pressured to interpret my feelings or thoughts. It is easy to misinterpret intentions.
6. **I will be careful how I interpret you.**
7. **If it’s confidential, don’t tell.** If you or anyone comes to me in confidence, I won’t tell unless a) the person is going to harm himself/herself, b) the person is going to physically harm someone else, c) a child has been physically or sexually abused. I expect the same from you.
8. **I do not read unsigned letters or notes.**
9. **I do not manipulate; I will not be manipulated; do not let others manipulate you.** Do not let others manipulate me through you. I will not preach “at you.” I will leave conviction to the Holy Spirit (she does it better anyway!)
10. **When in doubt, just say it.** The only dumb questions are those that don’t get asked. Our relationships with one another, at the end of the day, are the most important things so if you have a concern, pray, and then (if led) speak up. If I can answer it without misrepresenting something, someone, or breaking a confidence, I will.