

## **The Anglican/Episcopal Church of St. Augustine of Canterbury, Wiesbaden**

### **A Vestry Compact**

Recognizing that Holy Scripture will be our authority governing our behavior and relationships with one another and with the congregation, and acknowledging both St. Paul's directive to Timothy (1 Timothy 4:12) as a church leader to be "an example to the believers in speech, life, love, faith and purity," as well as Jesus' commandment (John 15:11) to "love one another, as I have loved you," we have agreed to the following compact.

#### **To love one another by:**

- Following and living up to the "Golden Rule" (treating others as you want to be treated)
- Creating and maintaining an open, honest, and respectful environment
- Listening carefully and being attentive to one another

#### **To treat each Vestry member with respect by:**

- Avoiding triangulation – if we have a problem with someone, we speak to them directly
- Maintaining eye-contact in conversation
- Sticking to the facts
- Acting like adults – no finger pointing
- Listening and speaking honestly
- Including everyone and accommodating different individual personalities and backgrounds
- Agreeing to disagree
- Acknowledge, but manage your prejudices

#### **To strive for unity in all matters by:**

- Seeking the opinions of those who may not voice them before taking significant decisions
- Praying together to discern God's will before taking significant decisions
- Upholding the final decision of the Vestry even when I may disagree

#### **To be an example to the congregation by striving to:**

- Listen to one another's and to the parish' concerns
- Support one another, and especially the Vestry Officers and the Priest-in-charge
- Solve problems proactively and with constructive suggestions
- Contribute (to the vestry and the parish) what we're good at
- Participate in church activities and attend worship regularly
- Reach out to the wider community