

CLERGY EMERGENCY LEAGUE COVENANT

1. We will be both prophetic and pastoral. Times such as these call for bold and direct testimony. Actions that are blatantly antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ must be countered by preaching and teaching that speak truth into stubborn places of injustice. However, we must take care not to sink to the level of those whose rhetoric is based upon an ethos of insult, injury, and ignorance. Members of the CEL community will be expected to conduct their preaching and teaching with the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5). This also means that insults, derogatory comments, personal attacks, and the like are counter to our prophetic witness.
2. We will be grounded in scripture. As clergy persons from various denominations, we have all taken vows to be guided by the Holy Spirit in the reading and proclamation of the word of God. Members of the CEL community will be guided, first and foremost, by the scriptures as we seek faithful responses to the crisis at hand.
3. We will strive to be an inclusive and affirming community. As representatives of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, those in the CEL community will hold one another accountable to be as inclusive as possible. Therefore, we hold ourselves to standards of language that do not exclude or harm persons based on gender identity, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, socio-economics, education, spectrum of ability, age, country of origin, language, immigration status, or otherwise. Members of the CEL community are strongly encouraged to use inclusive and/or expansive language to refer to God and humanity.
4. We will respect and celebrate the diversity of our ecumenical nature. CEL is a collaboration of clergy from a variety of denominations. While connecting with one another, we are aware that not everyone is fluent in the “lingo” of each denomination. Therefore, we explain all acronyms and do our best to make our content accessible to those who might be unfamiliar with a particular denominational context.
5. We will remain focused on the issues at hand. The Clergy Emergency League is a particular community formed for a particular purpose in a particular time and place. We will remain focused on the faithful proclamation of the Word, through preaching and teaching, in accordance with our stated Focus and Commitments
6. We will affirm the political implications of the Gospel while resisting attempts to turn it into a partisan weapon. We are not here to promote the agenda of any particular political party but to defend the Christian Church when it is casually and cruelly used to advance policies of violence and oppression.