

# Leadership Covenant of Alto Reformed Church

## Guiding Scriptures

*Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. (1 Timothy 6:20)*

*Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2 Timothy 1:14*

## Our Covenant

We will guard the mission, purity, and unity of the church. (1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:14; See Mark 13:5-11,23,33; Matthew 16:6-12; Luke 12:1; Acts 20:31)

**Guarding the Mission of the Church** - As leaders at Alto Reformed Church, we believe that we are called with others to lead the congregation in fulfilling Christ’s mission to know Jesus and make Jesus known. (Philippians 3:10; Romans 15:20) We want to become the best we can be at fulfilling our church's mission within our community. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8) We will seek to do this with faith, hope, and obedience to God. If he takes us down new roads, we will trust him. (Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrews 11:8-19) If he calls us to enable others to do what we are not able to do, we will do that. (Acts 6; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-12) God's work must progress. We will diligently pray and seek his wisdom to know how far and how fast to go, and what this means for us as individuals and as an entire congregation. (2 Chronicles 7:14; Matthew 7:7-11) At the same time, we recognize that change and progress require us to think new thoughts and consider new methods, just as the Bible says that new wine needs new wineskins. (Matthew 9:17) We recognize that change and improvement issues are subjective, involving varying methods and stylistic tastes. We will strive to be open to new ideas and sincerely weigh the pros and cons, not limiting God by our lack of imagination. We will guard the mission of the church.

**Guarding the Purity of the Church** - We affirm our Statement of Faith ~~along with the creeds and confessions of the RCA~~ (see [www.altoreformedchurch.org/our-beliefs](http://www.altoreformedchurch.org/our-beliefs)) and commit ourselves to teaching these truths, living within their bounds, and graciously dialoguing with those who disagree. (1 Timothy 3:1-13; 4:16) We understand God forgives repentant sinners- (1 John 1:9) and we need ~~are~~ not to walk in condemnation and guilt. (Romans 8:1) At the same time, we cannot continue to walk in sin. (Romans 6:1-2) Nor can we remain silent when others fall into sin or heresy. (Jude 1:23) As leaders, we ~~must~~ will set an example as transformed Christ-followers (Romans 12:1-2) who are skilled in handling the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15) and reflecting the character of Christ in our attitude (Philippians 2:1-18) and actions. (Galatians 5:16-25) We will guard the truth and purity of the church.

**Guarding the Unity of the Church** - As servant-hearted leaders, we will seek to model grace and truth in our relationships with one another just as Jesus did. (John 8:1-11) Therefore, we commit ourselves to authentic, loving relationships within this congregation. (John 13:34-35) We agree that the kingdom of God is bigger than any individual or group of people. (John 17:15-23) We earnestly seek to do God's will for our congregation. We will work at setting aside personal agendas. If we see that differences of opinions arise, we agree to seek resolution in a God-honoring, biblical manner. This means going directly to the person(s) with whom we have a concern or disagreement instead of talking about the person behind his/her back. (Matthew 5:22-24; 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; 6:1-8) We will esteem, love, and be respectful of others, even if we hold differing ideas or priorities. If we are not able to resolve our differences through face-to-face communication or even with the help of a third person, we agree to part ways without casting blame, pulling others away, or being generally divisive to our local congregation. (Acts 15:2) We will speak well of one another to others, promoting purity, unity and peace within our church family. (1 Thessalonians 5:11) We will be accountable to one another for our conduct, spiritual growth, ministries, and faithful service to God. (James 5:16) We will guard the unity of the church.

We commit ourselves to this covenant.

Elders of Alto Reformed Church

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(Based on the Pastoral Leadership Team Covenant of Meredith Drive Reformed Church & *How to Change your Church (Without killing it)*, by Alan Nelson & Gene Appel, p. 253)