

A Covenant of Mutual Responsibility and Respect HOD & HOB Legislative Committees on Structure

1. We will make every effort to be present for all committee meetings and we will be prepared for full participation.
2. We will strive to listen to one another with open minds and hearts.
3. We will receive visitors to our meetings with respect even when their views conflict with our own or their rhetoric seems inflammatory, attributing to them the same dedication to serving the truth as we claim for ourselves.
4. When we wish to speak, we will seek recognition from the Chair who is presiding, and make our points as concisely as we can. We will speak for no more than two minutes in any debate, and we will not speak more than twice unless permitted by the presiding Chair. This will ensure participation by as many members of the committee as possible.
5. We will strive for consensus without giving up our right to dissent should conscience so require. Respectful persuasion is our watchword; not political or parliamentary tactics if they be used to divide. Votes will be taken as required in order to move legislation of committee onto the floor.
6. We will do our best to bring proposals to the floors of our respective Houses that are well-reasoned, clearly stated, and ready for constructive debate and decision-making.
7. When the committees report to their respective Houses, we will be alert to opportunities to offer clarifying and explanatory comments that will ensure that the full minds of the committees are presented fairly. This does not mean that we are not free to vote against the respective committee's proposal should conscience dictate.
8. At all times, we will pray for the reconciling mind of Christ in our midst and in each of us. We will be attentive to our chaplains as they call us to prayer at various times in our deliberations.
9. As servants to our respective Houses, Committee #6 seeks to offer a model of community life grounded in Jesus Christ. We seek to be the kind of community that will bear fruit that will last – a community that take to heart our Lord's commandment to love one another and proclaim the Gospel by word and deed.