

**The Holy Manners of the Coordinating Council  
of the Presbytery of Mackinac  
June 2018**

Seeing Christ in all people:

Before Meeting:

- Pray daily for the Presbytery and Council (Col 4:12, Eph 6:18);
- Continue to forgive the past and speak well of one another;
- Support previous decisions of the Council;
- Hold one another accountable (Prov 27:17);
- Think well of self and others;
- Continue “conscious contact” with Spirit;
- Pray for the wisdom to know what to say and how to say it.

During Meeting:

- Try to speak another’s language even if you have trouble understanding it (Acts 2ff);
- Realize all have a part to play (1 Cor 12ff);
- Honor our shared vision (Mt 28:16ff);
- Communicate clearly, honestly and directly;
- Speak for yourself using “I” statements;
- Share opinions with clarity and humility;
- Walk hand in hand even though you may not see eye to eye (Col 3:14-15);
- Believe the best about everyone & give others the benefit of the doubt (Phil 4:8);
- Make conflict a positive thing (Mt 18:15);
- Forgive, forgive, forgive (7ox7);
- Hurt with the hurting;
- Laugh with good humor;
- What happens at the meeting stays at the meeting;
- Don’t speak to someone else about someone else;
- Do something good for someone, but keep it to yourself (1 Thes 5:11);
- Listen fully without forming what you will say next;
- Speak truth in love, not hostility (Eph 4:15);
- Behind thoughts spoken are feelings felt;
- Let us be informed by the past, but not stuck in it (Is 43:19).

After Meeting:

- Iron sharpens iron...Maintain accountability (Prov 27:17);
- Continue prayers for Council and Presbytery;
- Seek further discernment but support decisions made;
- Practice “Holy Manners” in daily life;
- Realize we may never fully understand what is said or done;
- Carry no resentments;
- Love and serve the Lord!

Bible Passages to Reflect On:

Col 3:12-17, 1 Thes 5:12-26 and 1 Cor 13ff

## **Presbytery of Mackinac Council Prayer**

(Based on outcomes of the Council Retreat, May 2018)

Gracious God, by the prompting of the Holy Spirit and by following the way of Christ, we offer ourselves to you. In order to lead and serve our Presbytery, help us to function with energy, enthusiasm, honesty and transparency, seeking to leave our personal agendas in your hands. May we honor each person's presence and perspective, listening fervently and seeking the good of the whole. Almighty God, because you have loved us and respected us first, allow us to love and respect one another. As we nurture our individual spiritual lives, help us to pray daily for each other, honoring the life we make in you. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.