

## BEING PART OF OUR CHURCH



Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn

All persons have the right to be able to enjoy church, and to be and feel safe at church. **Being Together** (a Statement from the National General Synod) reminds us how we are to live as family together at church.

### EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Jesus told us to love one another as he loves us. As Christians we know our life together is strengthened when our behaviour is consistent with our faith. However, our experience of being together can be difficult, particularly when there are differences. So, it is important to be clear about how we will behave towards each other.

### RELATING TO EACH OTHER

We will treat each other with respect and dignity, irrespective of ability, gender, sexuality, race, age or contribution to the church.

We will act with integrity and honesty in our interactions with each other.

### RESPONDING TO CONFLICT

We will accept responsibility for our part in a conflict.

We will be willing to play our part in resolving a conflict.

(Adopted by General Synod 2014, 45/14)

### BEING A COMMUNITY

We will value the wellbeing of others.

We will encourage each other to participate in the life of the church.

We will consider the impact of our behaviour on others.

### COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER

We will communicate respectfully with others, and not in a way that threatens, belittles or humiliates.

We will speak with integrity and honesty, and refrain from speculation and gossip.

### ACKNOWLEDGING DIFFERENCE

We will respect those who are different from us and not isolate or ridicule them.

We will listen to and seek to understand the beliefs, opinions and practices of others, even when we do not share their views.

**In our Diocese, if you feel unsafe at church or are experiencing relational difficulties, please speak in the first instance to your Minister, or you can also talk to the Safe Ministry Unit for advice.**