

# Circle Manners

*(Adapted from the Courage to Serve Program Boundary Markers)*

1. **Be fully present here.**  
(Give yourself to this time, these people, this moment.)
2. **Listen first.**  
(We are not here primarily to teach or fix. Let listening heal and help.)
3. **Ask, don't tell.**  
(Ask questions instead of giving advice.)
4. **Trust silence.**  
(Don't feel the need to fill silent breaks in conversation. Be patient and let silence be a gift.)
5. **Share as you wish.**  
(You will not be forced to say or share anything. You are invited, not required, to speak.)
6. **Keep confidentiality.**  
(What is shared in this circle stays in this circle.)
7. **Trust one another.**  
(Trust one another as brothers and sisters enough to be honest.)
8. **Don't judge. No moaning and groaning. Limit complaining.**  
(Do not condemn, even in your mind. Instead wonder why you are responding this way to what has been said.)
9. **Speak truth with love.**  
(Let your honest words be seasoned with kindness.)
10. **Believe the Holy Spirit is here.**  
(God's power is present in this gathering.)