

Communication Values Within the Church

(Locally and Nationally)

We agree together *to be mindful* of our communication of pertinent information/news.

We carefully consider: To Whom, By Whom, and When/Timing

- We will think through and begin with our Circles of **Focus** (primary relationships), then our Circle of **Influence** (extended “family”), and then our Circles of **Concern** (distant cousins) (*Covey, see below). Communication begins with those closest to the center, most impacted, expanding to the next circle, flowing outward.
- Depending on the gravity of the message, in-person communication is preferred, i.e. our monthly council meeting. When timing precludes in person communication, a phone call to those most affected is appreciated. Then email or text.
- Similar to our consensus guidelines, we intentionally think through any unintended consequences and seek to avoid disturbance.
- Urgency – there are emergencies during which we do our best to work through the process. Sometimes, the urgency driving our communication is due to pain, excitement or joy, and yet, relationships are best served when we honor the disciplined process. We are careful to communicate to all and recognize that informing “the few” may trickle outward in a way that is less than ideal.
- Confidentiality: We will honor confidentiality and not share without explicit permission.
- In general, social media is the last circle to inform.

*Adopted by the Rocky Mountain Regional Council
November 2, 2023*