

The Mars Hill Centre

Group Member Covenant

Revised September 7, 2001

Please carefully read the “Covenant” outlined below. Everyone has different expectations – hope and fears – as they begin a group. The information outlined below should help you realistically approach your group experience.

A. Group Confidentiality

I understand that every attempt will be made to guard my anonymity and confidentiality in this group, but that it cannot be absolutely guaranteed in a group setting.

I realize that the group facilitator cannot control the actions of others in the group.

I realize that confidentiality is sometimes broken accidentally and without malice.

I understand that the group facilitator is morally and ethically obligated to break confidentiality when:

- *I communicate an intention to kill myself.
- *I communicate an intention to harm another person.
- *I reveal ongoing sexual or physical abuse.

I have been warned about consequences for communicating the above types of information: that reports will be made to the proper authorities, including the Police, and Child Protection services, as well as to any potential victim.

I understand that the group facilitator’s motivation in this action is for my well being and it will only be undertaken in cases of extreme personal danger or when other alternatives have proven unsuccessful.

B. Group Process

I understand that the group operates by the following covenant for the overall healthy functioning of the group. I am aware that the group is only part of my healing process and that ultimately my healing process must move me toward being connected with others in community. (A community is a network of life-giving relationships)

I understand the need to be wary of establishing any exclusive relationship with another group participant. It has been explained to me that this pairing or sub-grouping can be detrimental to my healing process as well as the healing process for others in the group.

I understand that the group facilitator will make every effort to find additional help for me if my needs prove to be too great for the resources of this group.

C. Group Beliefs & Philosophy

I understand that this group is based on Christian values and beliefs. I realize that I am not obligated to agree with any or all aspects of Christianity but I am willing to explore, at my own pace, my relationship with Jesus as part of this group. I understand that group members may not be from my particular religious background and that the Bible may be discussed more (or less) than I would like it to be.

I realize that this group operates with a balance of professional training and “life experience” and is not facilitated by a trained psychologist or therapist. The leader’s main role in this group is to create a climate where healing can occur, to support my personal work towards wholeness and health, and share her/his own experience, strength and hope.

D. Waiver of Responsibility

I, _____, will not hold the Mars Hill Centre responsible for my emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, marital or family health.

I, alone, am responsible for my growth that takes place during the group process. I, alone am responsible for the choices I make.

Date signed: _____

Participant (please print & sign name):

Group leader (please print & sign name):

Group name: _____

Date & time of meeting: _____

The Mars Hill Centre

Our Group Covenant

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1. Anything said in the group is considered **confidential** and will not be discussed outside the group unless specific permission is given to do so.
2. **Reasonable time** will be provided for each person to talk.
3. We will **talk about ourselves and our own situations** avoiding conversation about other people. We will use “I” phrases and take responsibility for our own thoughts and actions.
4. We will **listen attentively** to each other and will give each person who shares our undivided attention.
5. **We will not advise, analyze or “fix”** others. Each of us is free to find our own answers.
6. We agree to **be here every week**, unless an emergency arises. If we cannot attend we will inform the group leader prior to the meeting.
7. We will **pray** for each other and encourage each other.