

Anonymous Communications Policy

Bath Presbyterian Church of Dayton, Ohio does not consider information of any kind that is offered anonymously.

This includes telephone calls, Emails and letters. This policy concerns information for which there is no verifiable attribution. It does not concern conversations/communication between parties that are appropriately private or confidential. This policy does not apply to information received in which or for which there is sufficient factual evidence to warrant further action.

Telephone Communications:

1. Calls from unidentified persons will be disconnected.
2. Unidentified voice-mail messages will be deleted.

Postal Mail:

1. All mail will be opened or disseminated by the clerk of session and will be briefly scanned to determine if there is any suspicion of anonymity.
2. Letters determined to be anonymous will be shredded immediately.

This policy extends to all Committees, Task Forces and Groups within the church.

Rationale:

God sends the church in the power of the Holy Spirit to share with Christ in establishing God's just, peaceable, and loving rule in the world. God's reconciliation in Jesus Christ is the ground of justice and peace. The church in worship proclaims, receives, and enacts reconciliation in Jesus Christ and commits itself to strive for justice and peace in its own life and in the world. (Book of Order, W-7.4001)

The church is called by Christ to be an agent of reconciliation. Individuals bringing allegations or accusations under cloaks of anonymity work directly against this call, because reconciliation, when concerned with others, can never be a unilateral action.

Anonymity precludes seeking redress or agreement, but rather fosters division as it allows neither substantiation nor attribution. Without these, there cannot be any sense of procedural integrity, the absence of which is an affront to our polity.