

Code of Conduct for Meetings

May 17, 2014

As a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, I will:

- Commit to be present at each meeting unless another important obligation prevents me from attending.
- Come to the meeting on time and prepared, with the expectation to make a contribution to the work of the group.
- Listen in order to understand one another, and to respect each other's views.
- Express myself honestly and respectfully, focusing on issues, not personalities.
- Make space for everyone
 - Avoid cross talk – critiquing or challenging someone's experience.
 - Allow for changes of pace in the conversation, including some silence.
- Remember it's OK to disagree
 - Even when we work together, we don't all have the same experience.
 - As humans, we want to belong and have people agree with us.
 - In Christ, we are held in community AND are different.
- Remember it's not okay to blame, shame, or attack self or other, verbally or non-verbally.
Examples:
 - Verbal – “That's just crazy”
 - Non-verbal – eye-rolling, etc.
- If I feel bad about something I did/didn't do, I won't get stuck in guilt or blame; I will move as soon as possible to make amends.
- Keep confidentiality - what is said in the group stays in the group, unless everyone agrees to share.
- Remain mindful of our continual need for God's grace and, especially, of the need we all have for forgiveness.

This Code of Conduct was adopted by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth on May 17, 2014, and is commended to all groups and gatherings of the diocese as a set of guidelines for our work together.