

Guidelines for a Safe Discussion

All members commit to participate; no one will be left out

It is important to provide absolute fairness in this study and also to provide a "safe place" - there must be no threat of any kind hanging over any discussion.

We will do our best to understand and express our own feelings on the subject of sexual orientation

We will listen carefully to what others say

We will comment during the meeting, rather than after we leave our gathering

We will be brief

We will avoid interrupting one another

We will avoid side conversations and comments

We will speak with respect *to* each other, *of* each other and *about* people outside this gathering

When we speak, we will resist the natural desire to convince others that we are right. Instead we will simply say what we ourselves have experienced, have read, or believe - and leave it at that

We will not put words in other peoples' mouths

We will refrain from name-calling

We will attempt to identify areas of agreement

We will continually seek God's presence

These guidelines may be amended by mutual consent