



H2

Human Sexuality Task Group Consultation

Guidelines for good conversations

- 1) Respect one another's integrity and identity when you listen to their viewpoints.
- 2) Be careful when you describe or retell viewpoints with which you disagree.
- 3) Be careful which words and phrases you use to describe someone else's viewpoint, avoid the use of hurtful words.
- 4) Avoid generalising too much; try to be as specific as possible.
- 5) Try to put yourself in each other's shoes so that you understand the background and experiences that have brought the other to believe what they believe.
- 6) Be careful not to hurt or insult each other and do not take another's viewpoint as a personal attack against you. If we hurt each other it can quickly close down a conversation.
- 7) Listen thoughtfully and patiently to what another is saying before you make a response.
- 8) Be open to changing your own beliefs and views, and be patient with others so that they have time to work through their own changing thought processes.
- 9) Ask for more help from people with specific experiences if your group will benefit from it.
- 10) Even if we believe that others are wrong, or their views are wrong, it is not our views that make us the people we are. Our identity as Christian people has its foundations in our relationship to God and in what Christ has done for us.

These guidelines are extracted from a report of the United Methodist Church in Norway and they are reprinted with permission.

They are offered to members of the consultation as we prepare to come together.

MISSION COUNCIL 25TH – 27TH November 2011