

A Covenant for Conversation

- 1. I will suspend my point of view as the only point of view.**
 - I am willing to put my point of view alongside others' points of view as one among many to be compared, contrasted, and considered.
 - I will make my point of view available for analysis along with those of others.

- 2. I will regard the other participants as partners.**
 - I want the benefits of dialogue more than I want to hold onto the privilege of rank.
 - I will respect every person and every point of view.
 - I will practice active listening.
 - I will not interrupt.

- 3. I will practice respectful inquiry.**
 - I will respond kindly and gently to what others say.
 - I will ask questions.
 - I will be open to seeing new possibilities.

- 4. I will be a part of creating a safe container for thinking together.**
 - I will listen to the potential of this group.
 - I will not judge what is said.
 - I will speak truth, as I understand it, with love.
 - I will make room for points of view that are not my own.

- 5. A facilitator will help the participants to own the dialogue.**
 - A good facilitator will keep the dialogue moving.
 - A good facilitator is helpful but does not take the role of the expert.
 - The participants are responsible for the process.