

Round Table guidelines and agreements:

We will begin by going around the circle stating your name and any group or affiliation you would like to share.

We will review, discuss and agree on these guidelines and agreements.

We will designate a timekeeper. We will have a moderator.

Going around the circle each person may pass or speak for up to two minutes, uninterrupted: thoughts/reactions/suggestions/ideas/concerns relating to our topic.

Please remember to be silent when it is your time to listen. Listen with an open heart and mind. Assume goodwill and don't let prior assumptions dissuade you from listening to and learning from each other. In addition to listening to the person's position, try to understand their feelings and values. You may never agree with their position, but you may discover shared values and make a human connection. In addition to assuming good intentions, be attentive to impact and intent.

There is no cross-talking, interrupting, referring to, or commenting on what another person has said. This is done so that no one feels judged or ostracized for speaking their truth. Set aside the need to persuade others. Acknowledge that there are many forms of expression within our faith.

When it is your time to speak, please use "I" statements. Please focus on what is true for you. Speak for yourself and from your own experience. Speak with honesty and admit what you do not know. Begin sentences with "I notice" or "I wonder", as opposed to "you people" or "you think".

After each person has had an opportunity to speak we will break up into smaller groups for informal discussion, each with a moderator. We will then reconvene and choose to take action as a group, or divide into smaller groups to pursue different follow-up actions, including possible future Round Table discussions.