

# Gathering for Conflict

## Words of the Day

When faced with conflict I (am) ...

## Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice to shine on our time together. In its light we celebrate the relationships and understanding we are creating in this place and time. May our sharing be deep. (*Light chalice*)

## The Basket

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## Silence, holding ourselves and each other in silent support

## Shared Readings

Conflict is inevitable, but combat is optional. *Max Lucado*

I think America is just so in love with conflict. *Chuck Palahniuk*

If you avoid conflict to keep the peace, you start a war inside yourself. *Cheryl Richardson*

Learning to ignore things is one of the great paths to inner peace. *Robert Sawyer*

Difficulties are meant to rouse, not discourage. The human spirit is to grow strong by conflict. *William Ellery Channing*

If you want to bring an end to long-standing conflict, you have to be prepared to compromise. *Aung San Suu Kyi*

The world needs anger. The world often continues to allow evil because it isn't angry enough. *Bede Jarrett*

Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love. *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

The quality of our lives depends not on whether or not we have conflicts, but on how we respond to them. *Tom Crum*

I said peace is sometimes narrowly interpreted; it's the absence of conflict between nations ... But peace is more inherent, more basic to human life, human beings, what we feel about each other, what we feel about life around us and what we see in our future. *Muhammad Yunus*

When conflict is reconciled, some hard feelings remain;  
This is dangerous.  
The sage accepts less than is due  
And does not blame or punish;  
For harmony seeks agreement  
Where justice seeks payment.  
The ancients said: "nature is impartial;  
Therefore it serves those who serve all." *Tao Te Ching 79*

You can't change what's going on around you until you start changing what's going on within you. *Zig Ziglar*

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, And wisdom to know the difference. *Reinhold Niebuhr*

## **Deep Sharing/Deep Listening**

**Round 1:** Share your reflections on conflict and the preparation materials.

**Round 2:** Share additional thoughts or reflect on what others have shared.

## **Closing Circle**

## **Extinguishing the Chalice**

We extinguish this flame and we remember the warmth of our community, the light of our wisdom, the generosity of our sharing. We keep these in our heart until we meet again.  
(*Extinguish the chalice.*)

## **Song/Chime**

## **Announcements**

### **The Covenant**

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group
- to let the facilitator know if I will be absent or need to quit
- to share with the facilitator the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, giving advice, or advocating a specific view
- to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn and to stay on the "I-message."