



**Interfaith<sup>®</sup>  
Philadelphia**

# CIVIL CONVERSATIONS

(De Escalate Conflict by Complicating the Narrative)

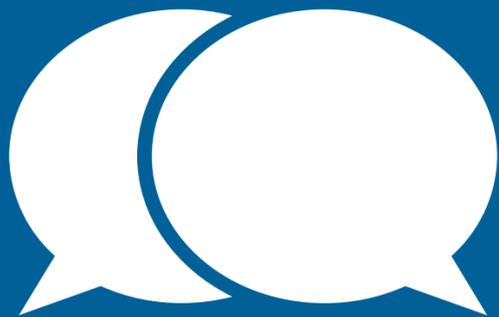


# **Interfaith<sup>®</sup> Philadelphia**

In order to promote social harmony and inter-religious understanding, Interfaith Philadelphia equips individuals and communities for interfaith engagement, builds collaborative relationships, and stands in solidarity with our diverse neighbors.

# Our Goals for TODAY

**Expect  
Interaction**



## Goal 1: KNOWLEDGE

To increase awareness of strategies that create environment for civil conversations

## Goal 2: EXPERIENCE

To provide an opportunity to interact with people from diverse worldviews in meaningful dialogue

## Goal 3: SKILLS

To identify, practice and develop skills for dialogue

# Shared Commitments for our Time Together



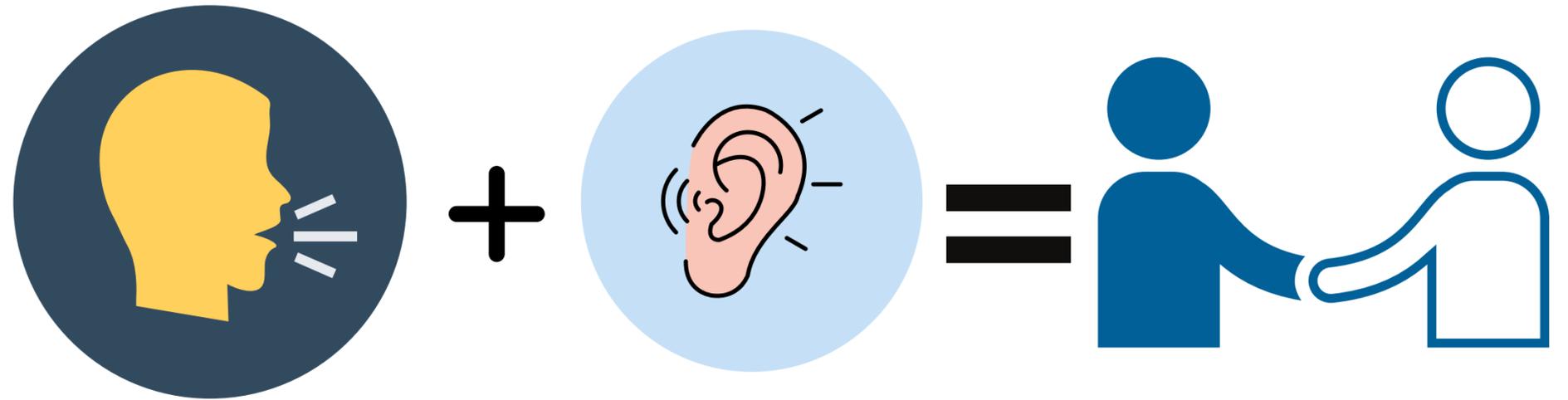
1. Respect: listen to, and respect, all points of view
2. Curiosity: seek to understand, not persuade or convince; look for new insights and common ground
3. Sincerity: speak authentically about what has personal meaning
4. Brevity: share time, listen more
5. Messiness: expect honest conversation and sharing to be messy (unresolved) at times
6. Listening: bring your whole attention to the time together
7. Confidentiality: personal stories stay with the group.
8. \_\_\_\_\_

# What is a Civil Conversation

1. Intentional/ Set apart/Framed
  - a. Specific focus
  - b. Designated time and place
  - c. somewhat structured/formal
2. Thematic Focus: from On Being–or other thought–provoking content
3. Facilitated
  - a. Speak authentically and personally and
  - b. Listen deeply and respectfully
  - c. For the purpose of better understanding each other
4. What's next? Opportunities to connect and continue growing



# Civil Conversation Essentials



1. Speak authentically
2. Listen deeply
3. With the intention to better understand each other



# Connect in Pairs



“What did religion or spirituality look like in your home growing up?”

What impact did the environment you grew up in have on your approach to conflict?

O  
BEING

Krista Tippett

+

Amanda  
Ripley



# Discussion Prompts

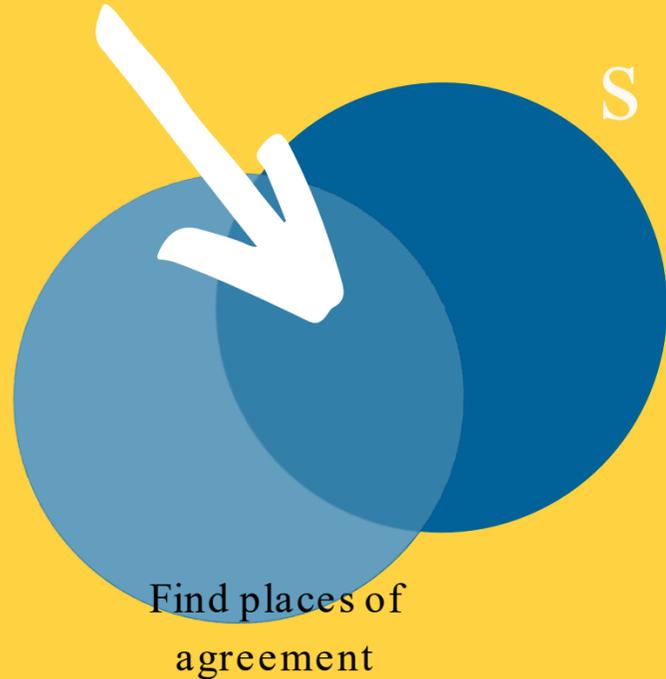


1. Responses to the listening—  
what stood out to you?
  - a. What do you notice?
  - b. What feelings rise up?
  - c. What meaning do you  
make of it?

(see handout for additional questions)

# Peer Learning: What strategies support navigating difficult conversations?

Be aware of your body. If flooded/agitated step away and calm your nervous system.



Expect Challenges.



Ask Questions



If you notice yourself defensive, see where you can take responsibility.



Name what is happening.



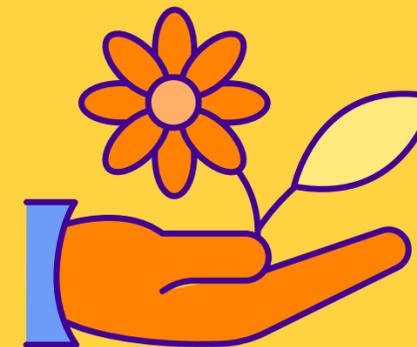
Use "I" Statements



Expect Non-Resolution (Loose Ends)



Pause, Take a break, plan to return



Interpret Generously



Relationships take time.



# Upcoming Programming

## Foundations in Interfaith Leadership

Fall 2024 (ONLINE)

## Navigating Difficult Conversations

May 22 at Bucksmont  
Summit (Gwynedd Mercy)

June 3, 10-11:30am  
(ONLINE)

## Dare to Understand Awards

June 6, 2024  
(in person and online)

## Becoming a Civil Conversation Workshop Facilitator

May 15, 2024, 9am -1pm, (Colmar, PA)

Thank you for  
participating!

We'd Love to Connect in the Future!

[info@interfaithphiladelphia.org](mailto:info@interfaithphiladelphia.org)



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