

Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV)
Responses
Dufferin-Peel Presbytery

Suggested Discussion Questions:

I. * What personal experience have I had which helps me better understand what reconciliation means?

OR

*** When have I seen or experienced a damaged relationship begin to transform or heal?**

II. 1. What do we know of reconciliation to strengthen our ministry?

1. Where is a reconciling presence needed in our ministry?

2. How shall we engage our reconciliation ministry, i.e. what learning's, resources, support do we need?

Responses:

-We know the importance of respect, tolerance and understanding. We do not need total agreement or consensus to talk or to communicate.

- "In Christ we are reconciled and given the ministry of reconciliation."

-Get together – talking about it

2 (a) in our congregations in theology

(b) between ordained and lay people

3 conflict resolution study/discussion

-Reconciliation is needed between faiths and between individuals of different faiths – at this time.

-By experiencing reconciliation with other faiths we are more likely to reach realization of a deeper reconciliation within our own faith

-Between council levels congregations that have begun to build walls between some of our parishioners.

-READ the book

-LIVE the book

-BWG? the book

-Bible study and sharing ministries

-Intentionally humble ourselves

-bringing together other denominations

-reconciliations with the Native American populations

-the stating of "truth" when communicating together

-asking for and accepting forgiveness

-the role of apathy

-the courage to speak out and lead with actions

-Interfaith dialogue and understanding

-helping people reconcile to their own spirituality distanced because of neglect or a distorted vision of the faith (hell and damnation)

-Catalyst

-patience

- calming presence
- respect the person/or people even if behaviour/attitude is unacceptable
- go beyond words – access non-verbal, initiative, holistic resources
- tap into unconscious, beyond observable words and behaviour
- if you're going to wash dishes, your hands have to touch the dirt on them, but you're still safe similarly, be willing to safely approach the problems. In first aid people are taught to stay safe and not become the next casualty.
- Restorative justice is needed in order to reach reconciliation. This is evident in our churches and recently in South Africa
- in community divisions – family upsets – church conflicts/divisions in the congregation
- group discussions, informal presentations sharing of stories
- nonthreatening environment
- confidential atmosphere
- accepting diversity
- ability to channel talents for most benefit
- learn to hear with your eyes and ears
- don't prejudge
- teachings in church on peace and love
- awareness
- openness to help people feel confident to seek help
- resources important – aware of “how to” give message
- education – how are students equipped to help in conflict
- conflict resolution
- acceptance of other opinions
- need to learn to disagree with violence
- need to speak out against violence!!
- get together – talking about it
- networking with women's groups