

Dingwall Baptist Church Guideline for Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love.

Our Call to Peace Making in the Church.

Jesus assumed we will face problems in our relationships. (Matthew 18.) His teaching in Matthew 18. V 15-17 provides essential instruction for us in our relationships within the church and forms a call to seek peace with one another.

At Dingwall Baptist Church

We seek to continuously work towards agreeing and disagreeing in love. These guidelines are to help us do that.

- We encourage self-reflection, being aware of our different personality styles and adopting a thoughtful attitude towards others.
- We encourage direct communication and ask that if we have a problem with someone within the church or they have upset us that we aim to resolve the matter speedily and directly with that person.
- If we believe that another may be upset with us. It should be our loving concern to approach them first with the aim of resolving the issue as soon as possible.
- We discourage the sharing of the complaint with others (triangulation) as this can cause the spread of conflict and further distress.
- We encourage open dialogue and the ability to listen to each other with respect for one another's views.

- We encourage the focussing on the issue and not the person.
- We recognize that in some situations a third party may be asked to facilitate the resolving of a problem. In this situation, they will not take sides or participate in the discussion but will act only in a supportive capacity. Neither will they discuss the issue with anyone else.
- If a third party is consulted and their advice has been to communicate directly, when such advice is ignored they will be not be able to assist further until the direct communication has taken place.
- If a problem has not been resolved by direct communication with or without the assistance of a third party, it will need to be discussed with the pastor and or deacons to enable them to affect a resolution which all parties can live with.
- . We discourage the use of social media to express disagreement.
- We discourage the use of e mail to raise a concern or express conflict, using e mail only for the provision and receipt of information.