



Church Peacemakers Conference Script

Use this script as a starting point for your facilitated conference. You will need to adapt it to your particular circumstances, adding and leaving out questions where appropriate.

Introduction

Welcome. As you know my name is and I will be facilitating this meeting.

Before we start can I ask that if anyone has a mobile phone that they switch it off so that we are not interrupted.

I will now work my way around the group to introduce everyone and say why they are here.

(The facilitator will have normally already discussed with participants how they wish to be addressed and this is how they should be introduced. Ensure you introduce all participants)

It is important to point out that you all choose to be here today, and that being here takes strength and commitment. This meeting might not be easy, but it will allow you to be a part of dealing with what happened.

This meeting will look at what happened on *(day/date)* at *(place)* when *(brief description only)*. It is important to understand that the meeting will focus on what *(the 'offender/s')* did, and how their (unacceptable) behaviour has affected others.

None of you are here to decide whether anybody is a good or bad person. You are here to explore how people have been affected by what has happened, and for all of you to work towards repairing the harm that was caused and restoring right relationships in the body of Christ. For as it says in 1 Corinthians 12, God has made us one body so that there may be no division in the body and the members may have the same care for one another, and if one member suffers all the members suffer with them, and if one member is honoured then all rejoice with them.

I will make sure that you all will be given the chance to have your say, and to have other people listen to you. After everyone has had their say, I will make sure that you all have an opportunity to ask questions or respond to what has been said.

Does that seem fair to everyone?

(A short prayer may be said at this time. Typical prayers may include comments about the subject of God's call on us to repent and to forgive those that have hurt us, and about unity)

Ground rules (if appropriate) *explain ground rules/remind participants of agreed ground rules from preparation.*

Accounts

Ask each person in the conference what happened. If there is an identifiable 'offender', start with them.

TO OFFENDER(S)

(if more than one – ask each question/set of questions to each offender, before moving on to the next question/set of questions)

I will start by asking..... to tell everyone what happened.

What did you do?

What did you do then?

What were you thinking at that time?

What were you feeling at that time? *(e.g. when you lost your temper?)*

What have you thoughts been since that time?

How do you feel now?

Who do you think has been affected by what happened?

Who do you think has been affected by what you did?

Do you think has been affected by your actions?

Thank you for what you have told us. We will now find out how others have been affected. I'll then come back to you to give you the opportunity to respond to what they say.

TO VICTIMS, THEN VICTIM SUPPORTERS

How did you become aware of what happened? (*Don't use this if the answer is obvious*)

What were you thinking at that time?

What were you feeling at that time? (*e.g. when you heard those angry comments*)

What have your thoughts been since that time?

How do you feel now?

What has been the hardest thing for you?

Who else has been affected by this?

N.B. SAME QUESTIONS AS ABOVE TO ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE (Eg Supporters)

TO OFFENDERS

You have just listened to everybody and heard what they have had to say about what happened and the harm that has been caused. Is there anything you want to say?

Do you see that the choices (you) made then have caused harm?

Do you think you need to do something to repair the harm? (*This is a closed question; do not look for the offenders to come up with suggestions at this point.*)

Agreement

It is important that we consider what needs to happen to repair some of the harm caused.

TO VICTIM AND VICTIM SUPPORTERS FIRST, THEN EVERYONE ELSE (EXCEPT OFFENDERS)

What do you want to come out of this meeting?

TO OFFENDER(S)

You have heard what has been said. What do you think needs to happen?

What do you think is the right and fair thing for you to do?

Make sure the agreement is SMARTER

TO ALL

Does anyone have any questions they would like to ask or anything they would like to say?

Conclusion

To summarise then has agreed to Is that correct?

How do you feel about what has been said? (*to each*)

It is important that I clarify what has been decided. I will write out an agreement for everyone to sign which covers what has agreed to do to repair the harm.

Before closing this meeting, is there anything else that anyone wants to say?

Then I will close the meeting with a prayer.

(Insert suitable prayer at this time.)

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