

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING INTERRELIGIOUS COMMUNITY
July 28, 2010

In order for the Silicon Valley Interreligious Council to build authentic community among our many diverse traditions we all ascribe to a shared understanding of what it means to build relationships and community. Below is a proposed “code of conduct” for members of SiVIC. These are based on “The Dialogue Decalog” of Leonard Swidler¹, Kay Lindahl’s “Guidelines” in *The Art of Dialogue and Centering Prayer*² and David Bohm’s *On Dialogue*.³

We invite your comments and suggestions; please send them to southbayinterfaith@yahoo.com.

Eight guidelines for building inter-religious community:

1. I am ready to change and grow in my interactions with others.
2. I will endeavor to speak and listen without judgment, assuming integrity in the other person’s self-understanding. I will suspend my prior assumptions and prejudices.
3. I assume that we are all equal partners, both individually and institutionally.
4. I will observe trust and confidentiality.
5. I will endeavor to be as honest and open as possible. I will feel free to define myself, and will avoid comparing my ideal with another’s practice.
6. I will work to avoid making generalizations about my own and others’ traditions, and will value “I” statements.
7. I will delight in the difference of other people’s understandings and experiences.
8. I will work collaboratively with others to build authentic inter-religious community.

¹ *The Dialogue Decalog: Ground Rules for Interreligious, Interideological Dialogue*, revised by Ingrid Shafer, 1997
<http://www.usao.edu/%7Efacshaferi/DIALOG00.HTML>

² *The Art of Dialogue and Centering Prayer*, by Kay Lindahl, Chapter 6 of *The Diversity of Centering Prayer*, Gustave Reiner (ed.) Continuum Publishing, New York, 1999

³ *On Dialogue*, by David Bohm,