

NVHC Brit for Community Dialog

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, חוֹנֵן הַדָּעַת בִּינָה וְהַשְׂכָּל.

Baruch Atah Adonai, Chonein hada'at, binah, v'haskel.

Blessed are You God, Who grants knowledge, discernment and wisdom.

NVHC Brit for Community Dialog

Objective:

To create an environment where members of NVHC can discuss subjects that reflect diverse and potentially strongly held opinions. We shall:

- Ensure that minority opinions are heard and respected.
- Speak as an NVHC community and take an NVHC position when this is called for by the situation.
- Ensure minority voices in the congregation feel respected when the NVHC community speaks or acts against their views.
- Model a way of community deliberation that contributes to healthy citizenship.

We have a common understanding that:

1. All people represent themselves and speak *carefully* from their own understanding. "I" statements are better than "you" statements or "they" statements.
 - a. Avoid hyperbole
 - b. Avoid filibuster
 - c. Avoid gestures (even eye rolling)
 - d. Avoid personal attacks and name calling
2. We will listen respectfully to what each person has to say. We will try our best to understand what others are saying and to understand why they are saying what they are saying.
3. While being respectful of the time, we will also make sure that everyone's opinion is heard recognizing that an individual's opinion may change in the course of the discussion, and the individual may want this new opinion to be heard.
4. We will highlight, honor, and celebrate areas where we have common agreement. We will try to build on our agreement.
5. We will accept that our objective is not to change anyone's opinions.
6. We recognize that developing an NVHC consensus on any subject is a sacred and spiritual task. We will seek guidance from God, from our best nature and from the best nature of all those who are participating in this process.
7. We will seek guidance from clergy or other trusted sources on Jewish Law, thinking, and tradition related to the subject at hand.
8. We will seek relevant outside information to support our position.
9. If an opinion from a discussion is reported to the Board of Trustees or if minutes are taken, both the majority and the minority views will be reflected.

עֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם בְּמִרְוַמָּיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ:
אָמֵן:

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol Yisrael, v'imru: Amen.

May the One Who makes peace in high places make peace for us, for all of Israel and we all say: Amen.