

## **First Existentialist Congregation Conflict Resolution Policy**

The First Existentialist Congregation Policy on Conflict Resolution. First E members and the Board have identified a need for a policy on conflict resolution or mediation. A Conflict Resolution Committee shall be created for the purpose of facilitating the conflict resolution process. The Committee shall consist of the Fellowship Minister and at least 3 other members.

Conflict can be transformative when it arises in groups or between individuals. The goal of First E's conflict resolution policy is not to suppress or end conflict but to make it possible for people to use conflict as a way of seeing what is going on in the congregation and between members and as a way of using conflict to create positive change.

When conflict arises in the congregation between groups or individuals, they can meet with the Fellowship Minister for pastoral mediation. Or, if they choose, they can ask a member of the Committee to provide them with names of suggested people who are trained in nonviolent communication or another legitimate technique for mediation or conflict resolution and who have agreed to be resources for the Congregation.

The Committee can also schedule workshops or group sessions for the entire congregation with a nonviolent communication practitioner or another person trained in mediation or conflict resolution techniques to train the congregation in nonviolent communication or other techniques. Workshops or sessions can also be scheduled by the Committee for the purpose of mediating specific issues over which the congregation as a whole may be experiencing conflict.

Any conflict resolution mediator or trainer must be willing to observe the principles expressed in the Existentialist Commitment voted on by the congregation.

Following is a list of people who have agreed to be conflict resolution resources. They include a psychotherapist, an ombudsperson, and two nonviolent communication trainers. This list will be maintained and updated by the Conflict Resolution Committee.

Franklin Abbott, Psychotherapist  
lokishango@gmail.com  
404-874-8294

Valerie Fennell, Ph.D.  
Office of the Ombudsperson  
Georgia State University  
P.O. Box 3981  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3085  
404-413-2513  
404-413-2510  
acavif@langate.gsu.edu

Trained through the International Ombudsmen Association, background in cultural anthropology.

\$25/hour

\$100/hour for groups or workshops

Faye Landey

Recognized Facilitator, Georgia Network for Nonviolent Communication

Registered Candidate for Certification with the Center for Nonviolent Communication

[fayelandey@mindspring.com](mailto:fayelandey@mindspring.com)

404-863-3289

\$100/hour for groups or workshops; willing to do sliding scale.

Charli Vogt, RN, MN, MPH

PO Box 2999

Decatur, GA 30031

404-377-1257

[Charli@CharliVogt.com](mailto:Charli@CharliVogt.com)

[www.charlivogt.com](http://www.charlivogt.com)

Sliding scale of \$75-\$150/hour for groups or workshops

Available for teaching classes in Nonviolent Communication.

This Conflict Resolution Policy was approved by consensus by the Board of the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta on August 11, 2009.