

## Christian Counseling & Conciliation Conciliation Process Agreement

*Thank you for your interest in Christian conciliation. My goal is to help people resolve conflicts in a cooperative rather than an adversarial manner. The conciliation process is based on biblical principles that promote understanding, personal responsibility, justice, and reconciliation. I will consider accepting any case regardless of the religious convictions of the parties, provided they are willing to respect the Christian principles underlying the conciliation process.*

*Description of Services* – I provide **conflict coaching** and written resources to help individuals explore ways to resolve disputes personally and privately. I provide **mediation**, an informal process in which one or more mediators meet with all of the people involved in the conflict to help them arrive at a voluntary settlement of their differences. I also provide **arbitration**, a more formal process in which one or more arbitrators hear each side's arguments and render a legally binding decision. Finally, I provide a **Church Intervention process**, an extensive mediation process designed to resolve conflict(s) that involves a large portion of the congregation. (For a more detailed description of these services, see the *Guidelines for Christian Conciliation*, which contains an *Introduction to Christian Conciliation* and *Rules of Procedure*.)

*Administrative Fee* – An administrative fee of \$250 will be charged to open a conciliation case. Pre-mediation conflict coaching is usually billed to the parties at \$70 per hour. The administrative fee for a Church Intervention is also \$250.

*Mediation Fee* – Mediation fees are \$300 per half day (up to four hours) or \$600 for full day (up to eight hours). These fees must be received **before** each scheduled mediation meeting(s). Mediation meetings may require travel to Susanville, or Peter's travel and lodging expenses will be arranged with parties.

*Biblical Basis* – I believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. Therefore, I base my services on scriptural principles rather than on those of secular psychology or psychiatry. (For a description Christian Conciliation principles, see question 20 in *FAQs*).

*Not Legal Representation* – Christian conciliation may be used to resolve legal disputes. Even so, conciliators do **not** provide people with the kind of legal advice and advocacy they would obtain if they hired a personal attorney. Instead of representing one person against another, I work with and for all the people in a dispute to help them find a mutually satisfactory agreement. This limitation applies to all of our conciliators, including those who happen to be attorneys. Therefore, if you are concerned about your legal rights, you should consult with an independent attorney who would be willing to accompany and advise you during the conciliation process.

*My Commitment to Confidentiality* – Confidentiality is an important aspect of the conciliation process, and I will carefully guard the information you entrust to me. To ensure that you are receiving consistent counsel and support, however, I may need to be able to discuss your situation with your attorney, if you have one, and with appropriate leaders of your church, if you belong to or attend one. Furthermore, I may need to divulge information to appropriate civil authorities if there is a clear indication that someone might otherwise be harmed (see *Rules of Procedure* 16 and 23 for more information on confidentiality).

*Your Commitment to Confidentiality* – You must agree not to discuss our communications with people who do not have a necessary interest in the conciliation process. In addition, you must agree to treat all dealings with us in regard to this dispute as settlement negotiations, which means they will be inadmissible in a court of law or for legal discovery. Furthermore, you must agree that you will not try to force any conciliator to divulge any information acquired during conciliation or to testify in any legal proceeding related to this dispute.

*Please contact me with any questions about these terms. If these terms are acceptable, please sign below.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_