

## **Manchester First UMC Courageous Conversations**

### **Holy Conferencing Guidelines:**

1. Every person is a child of God.  
*We will speak respectfully, even and especially if disagreeing.*
2. God works in unexpected ways.  
*We will trust that God is at work and it is God, not us, who may change the views of any or all parties in the discussion.*
3. Everyone has a unique perspective to share.  
*We will listen to understand each other's experiences before formulating responses.*
4. Communities are strengthened by mutual understanding.  
*We will accurately reflect other's views and avoid generalizations by referencing specific evidence and examples.*

### **Re-framed Responses:**

1. You're wrong.  
*I have a different understanding/perspective.*
2. I don't understand.  
*Tell me more.*
3. I don't see how anyone could think that.  
*Can you help me understand why you think that?*

### **Litany for Christian Unity (UMH 556)**

Let us ask the Lord to strengthen in all Christians faith in Christ, the Savior of the world.  
**Listen to us, O Lord.**

Let us ask the Lord to sustain and guide Christians with his gifts along the way to full unity. **Listen to us, O Lord.**

Let us ask the Lord for the gift of unity and peace for the world. **Listen to us, O Lord.**

Let us ask the Lord for the gift of unity and peace for the world. **Listen to us, O Lord.**

Let us pray. We ask you, O Lord, for the gifts of your Spirit. Enable us to penetrate the depth of the whole truth, and grant that we may share with others the goods you have put at our disposal. Teach us to overcome divisions. Send us your Spirit to lead to full unity your sons and daughters in full charity, in obedience to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**