



A RESOLUTION WORTH KEEPING: TAKE THE CIVILITY PLEDGE

The Concordia Year of Peace Committee is asking everyone in the community to ensure civility in public discourse and behavior. Please sign the Civility Pledge and join us in a nationwide effort to engage in civility in public discourse and behavior.

What exactly do we mean by civility? It has to include the dictionary definition of politeness, but it has to mean more. The push for civility in public debate will have accomplished little if all it does is get people to say, "Excuse me, please," while they figuratively stab you in the back. Civility also cannot mean "roll over and play dead."

We need to be able to raise tough questions and present our cases when we feel our vital interests are being threatened. A civil society cannot avoid tough but

important issues, simply because they are unpleasant to address.

But we must recognize that other thoughtful and caring people have very different views on how best to address our community's and our country's many complex problems. Civil debate must focus on solutions and not upon personal attacks leveled by adversaries against one another.

— Adapted from work by Guy & Heidi Burgess, 1997, Conflict Research Consortium, University of Colorado

TO LEARN MORE: www.civilityproject.org www.concordiayearofpeace.blogspot.com

THE CIVILITY PLEDGE

- ✓ I WILL BE CIVIL IN MY PUBLIC DISCOURSE AND BEHAVIOR.
- ✓ I WILL BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS WHETHER OR NOT I AGREE WITH THEM.
- ✓ I WILL STAND AGAINST INCIVILITY WHEN I SEE IT.

PRINT YOUR NAME BELOW:

_____ X _____

PHONE NUMBER:

MAIL YOUR SIGNED PLEDGE, BY DEC. 31, TO:
Bob Steimel, PO Box 213, Concordia KS 66901

NOTE: By sending in your signed pledge, you agree that your name can be used on a public list of Civility Pledge supporters.