



DynamicDialogue™

Beyond business as usual

August 2017

We believe that we all need to be active participants in our lives to meet the challenges of our world. The 2016 election has illuminated and increased the polarization between the “Red” and “Blue” of the USA, and anyone in-between. We keep hearing, “I just cannot understand why they...” or “I cannot for the life of me see how they could...” What is abundantly clear to us is that we really do not understand each other.

Worse yet, many of us have convinced ourselves that there is no point in trying to understand the ‘other’. Often this is accompanied by anger, despair, anxiety and other feelings that hemorrhage goodwill and connection. This disconnect impacts families, businesses, neighborhoods, faith communities, elected and employed government officials. Meanwhile our economy, healthcare, environment, infrastructure, criminal justice, and more suffer. At this level of polarization, we cannot bring the whole array of good ideas together that would help us chart the best course forward. We are stuck in win/lose either/or dynamics that stifle our creativity and good sense.

We suffer because our divisions have become so acrimonious, our discourse so toxic that we give up listening and speaking to each other. And we forget that we need each other. We need each other. Urban/rural; farmers/educators; line workers/technology developers; rich/poor, we need each other. And each of us has a stake in the future.

As unpopular as it may be right now; we are committed to bringing people of diverse—even polarized perspectives together to listen—really listen to each other. Obviously, that means we also must speak our truth, our values, our needs, our struggles and our desires.

We believe that if we truly listen and speak from our most authentic place we will realize we have more in common than we thought. We will realize we can find a way to healthy, safe, positive living that builds on all of our perspectives.

DynamicDialogue® is all about providing a framework and some practices that help us to speak openly and honestly while listening deeply and intentionally. We *will* get defensive and we can work that through! We *are* going to misunderstand, and we can learn ways to understand. We *are* going to disagree, and we will learn how to do that while staying in relationship. We *are* going to advocate, and we will learn how to inquire just as much.

I invite you to explore your path to more meaningful communication with DynamicDialogue.