



Meadville Lombard
Theological School

Meadville Lombard Guidelines of Right Relations

The following *Meadville Lombard Guidelines for Right Relations* was originally drafted in 2006 by members of our Modified Residency Program who typically met only during January or July intensives. In 2007, the guidelines were adopted to make the word “nation” plural in #10 and to remove the italics on the word “all” in #6.

Later, these guidelines were adopted by the students in the Residential degree program and affirmed by the faculty and staff.

These guidelines are reaffirmed regularly at the beginning of courses and provide a covenantal way to discuss issues that may be difficult.

The current leadership of the student body (incorporating members of the Modified Residency, Residential, and the MLEM Master of Divinity degree programs) view this as a living document to be reviewed at intervals.

I, as a member the of Meadville Lombard Theological School community, in an intentional effort to nurture communication and model our principles, acknowledge a need to encourage Right Relations. To that end I observe these guidelines:

1. I will use "I" statements when sharing my experiences, feelings and opinions.
2. I will seek to understand, listening with an open heart and an open mind.
3. I will withhold unsolicited personal judgments and examine my assumptions.
4. I will speak my truth in constructive and civil ways, considering how my communication style affects others.
5. I will, if I have a concern with someone, speak with that person directly and not about them.
6. I will practice Right Relations with all members of the Meadville community, seeking self-awareness, and offering honesty, patience, and courage in each interaction.
7. I will acknowledge indications of pain, concern or discomfort in our community.
8. I will advocate for persons who identify with groups that are marginalized and oppressed, understanding that conflicts will arise and that neat solutions cannot always be found.
9. I will work for anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multi-cultural justice.

10. I will seek to learn more about those who experience discrimination in our church, our school, our nations.
11. I will recognize that the work we do together is sometimes difficult, and that in order to work we must stay 'at the table' together. This will involve taking risks.
12. I will treat my colleagues with love, compassion, dignity, and respect.
13. I will acknowledge that this is a living document, intended to be improved as the community sees fit.

Bringing joy, hope, and justice to all I do as a member of this community, I seek to embody and enact these Guidelines of Right Relations with the love, reverence and humility one should expect from our religious community.