**Conversation Café Agreements**

**Open-mindedness:** listen to and respect all points of view. Conversation isn’t just talking. It’s talking and listening. In fact, you’ll be listening more than you are talking! By focusing on listening, you may also benefit from the variety of ideas in this circle.

**Acceptance:** suspend judgment as best you can. We all judge one another, but do your best not to. Doing so will enable you to hear new things from others. It also helps everyone feel safer if they think others are trying to not judge them! There will be a process later in the day for prioritizing the ideas we generate.

**Curiosity:** seek to understand rather than persuade. We’re not here to convince others that we are right and they are wrong. If someone expresses a point of view that seems different from yours, see if you can ask some questions to gain clarity or understanding.

**Discovery:** question assumptions, look for new insights. Conversation Café dialogues aren’t polite conversation—they are designed to expose us to new ideas or possibly even see old ideas in a new way. Insight—seeing more deeply into a topic—can come if we watch for it.

**Brevity:** go for honesty and depth but don’t go on and on. Honesty and depth are important to a good conversation, but so is giving everyone a chance to speak. People are polite. They may not stop you if you go on and on. But you can stop yourself. Try to stay under a couple of minutes.

**Move up, Move back:** If you are someone who talks a lot, make an extra effort to listen first. If you tend to talk less, we encourage you to push yourself to contribute. Please keep in mind your social location and privilege in relation to how much of the group time you take.