

DIALOGUE

... is a balance of advocacy and inquiry. *Advocacy* is opening a window to your reasoning with supportive data and life experience. *Inquiry* is suspension of reason and exposing your mental models and heart to other people's reasoning and humanity—their stories.

Good dialogue....

is listening to learn.

is an exchange of ideas, experiences, and meanings that is so active, effective, and highly charged that it leaves none of the participants unchanged.

means learning to suspend one's opinions and judgments in order to truly hear another.

expands one's world, information, and personal identification.

requires staying in the dialogue, even when one's closely held beliefs are challenged.

requires all participants to contribute from where they are even half-formed ideas.

can result in divergent views converging, discovering a *new social intelligence*.



"Suppose we were able to share meanings freely without a compulsive urge to impose our view or to conform to those of others and without distortion and self-deception. Would this not constitute a real revolution in culture?"

David Bohm, *Changing Consciousness*, 1992

Dialogue

To inquire and to learn

To discover shared meaning

To integrate multiple perspectives

To uncover and examine assumptions

Discussion and Debate

To tell, sell, persuade

To gain agreement on one meaning

To evaluate and select the best

To justify and defend assumptions

"Dialogue is about what we value and how we define it. It is about discovering what our true values are, about looking beyond the superficial and automatic answers to our questions. Dialogue is about expanding our capacity for attention, awareness and learning with and from each other. It is about exploring the frontiers of what it means to be human, in relationship to each other and our world."

Glenna Gerard, 1995