

## BC & Yukon Freemasons Civility Initiative Presentation 2

### Notes for the Presenter

Thank you for delivering the second presentation in support of the Freemasons Civility Initiative. We suggest that you review this document prior to making your presentation.

In preparation for May as Civility Month we wanted to get the brethren to engage in discussion of the civility principles. Our team undertook Civility Principles Priority exercise and found it quite interesting and instructive.

### Purpose of presentation 2

To examine the principles of civility

To actively engage the brethren in examining civility principles

To provide a call to action for the brethren to support Civility Month in May

### Suggested Approach

We hope that you are able to actively engage the brethren in this presentation. This approach has been most successful when brethren share examples of civility they have witnessed. Acts of incivility can also be cited but try to end that part of the presentation with a good news civility example. The group work that follows - Civility Principles Priority Setting - typically generates useful discussion.

### Materials required for Civility Principles Priority Setting

The list of Civility Principles for this exercise is a part of this package. Ideally print out the Civility Principles (1-10) so that each brother in attendance can take a copy with them at the end of the meeting. There are 10 principles included in the document - the numbers used are for identification purposes only and do not represent a priority rating. For this group exercise print off several copies (see the final page of this package) and give each group either Principles 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 or Principles 2, 4, 6, 8, 10.

**It is recommended that you not distribute the Principles documents until the groups are established.**

This will allow the group to formulate its collective opinions together.

### Suggestions for the Presenter

- This presentation will likely last 15 - 20 minutes and may even go longer if the brethren really get into the topic. It is recommended that you let the WM know this in advance.
- Have a couple of civility examples that you can use to get the **introductory discussion** started. If you are able to get a couple of brothers to do the same that section of the presentation should be off and running.
- In the group work session try to mix up the groups so that you have a cross section of brethren by age and rank.
- Ideal group size is 5
- Have at least 4 groups
- Each group will need to nominate a spokesman to present their priorities

Please **contact** your Civility Ambassador if you have any questions or to receive feedback on what has worked well in other Districts.

Thank you for your contribution to this important initiative.

R.W. Bro. Barry Burch and the BC and Yukon Freemasons Civility Team:

MWB Don Stutt, RWB Tim Yates, RWB Will Nixon, RWB Brian Beech, VWB John Parks, WB John Harbick, WB Frank Minchin, WB Charlie Molloy, WB Freddy Li, Bro Bill Barrs, Bro Jarrod Dunham

## Presentation 2

### Introduction: (About 1 minute)

Certainly our society could be more caring and considerate. Each day we witness thoughtless and inconsiderate behaviour. Left unchecked the current trend in incivility may well become the new normal - this is not a world we would want to leave for future generations. The Freemasons Civility Initiative in our jurisdiction is to enable us to act as the catalyst for a conversation about civility in our communities. This provides us the opportunity to practice out of the Lodge those excellent precepts that are ever inculcated in it.

"Civility costs nothing & buys everything." RWB Wilson Becket

### Ice Breaker – engagement: (About 3 minutes)

- Focus is on sharing civility experiences. Examples for your consideration:
  - What does Civility mean to you?
  - Tell a story of personal experience, how you were effected (hurt, angry, embarrassed in public, during family relations, work and/or Lodge)
    - Did you refrain from any comment about that incivility for the sake of politeness/political correctness
    - What examples can you share?
  - Was there an opportunity for self-assessment? What did you do or learn from it?
  - By sharing a story we learn we are not alone in our concern over the behaviour of others. Is there an opportunity for reflection?

**Civility Principles Priority Setting** (About 6 minutes)\* - this may go on a bit longer - my experience was at least 10 minutes was easily filled

We suggest putting the Lodge at refreshment for this exercise

- Have copies of the Civility Principles (1,3,5,7,9 and 2,4,6,8,10)
  - At least 3 copies for every group
- Have small groups select from the 5 civility principles provided their top 2 and be able to explain why.
- Each group's spokesman presents their group's selections and provides their rationale
- Encourage consideration of other group's top 2 compared to yours. Discuss the merits of the selections made. Is there consensus for a top 2 overall?

### May is Civility Month Overview (About 2 minutes)

The month of May will be an opportunity to consider and exercise 4 weeks of civility action themes within and without. This is intended to provide an opportunity to reflect on the month and share with each other.

During the month of May brethren are encouraged to:

- Practice civility
- Examine your own behaviour and commit to striving for higher levels of civility
- Discuss the importance of civility with family, friends and acquaintances
- Acknowledge civil acts

### Brethren's Role/Opportunities (About 3 minutes)

- Self assessment of ones own civil behaviour and opportunities to reflect and act
- Use the Civility Month challenge as a means of experiencing acts of civility
- What is the Lodge's role? Leadership by example, coaching, can there be an acting out example then discussion (e.g. the young Bros. in VC1 did it as a pre-planned debate)
- Examine where Civility fits in the role of Freemasonry. Contemplate the question - is civility how we demonstrate those teachings to the world?

**Resources:** For additional resources specifically for Freemasons see: <http://www.masoniccivility.org/>

## **Freemasons Civility Initiative**

### **Civility Principles**

1. Build Relationships and trust. Trust, builds bridges across boundaries
2. Be Inclusive. Acknowledge others. It is about leading and serving for the betterment of mankind
3. Speak kindly. Be mindful of the words you use, when and how you use them
4. Remember our shared humanity. We are all human beings, with more commonalities than differences
5. Show Respect. Honour other people's opinions, Respect means you can disagree without being disagreeable
6. Assume the best in others. View everyone in positive terms
7. Pay attention - be aware and attend to the world and the people around you
8. Value both the process and the results of any discussion
9. Listen intently when others are speaking. Inhibit the "inner voice" from interrupting with comments
10. Apologize when necessary. Be sincere and repair damaged relationships

**Civility Principles for Priority Setting Exercise**

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