



PEACEMAKING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Peacemaking is a Biblical approach to addressing conflicts and disputes that seeks to honor Jesus and to please Him by pursuing not only the resolution of all issues, but also the reconciliation of those involved to the fullest extent possible. Our goal at The Cove Church is to support and assist you in achieving this objective. We want you to fully understand how we may serve you and the information we need to effectively help you. This is how the peacemaking process works at The Cove Church.

I. Intake and Initial Information

You begin the peacemaking process by contacting our Peacemaking Team. A team member will obtain your contact information and a thumbnail sketch of the issues involved in your conflict or dispute.

II. Peacemaking Process Questions and Preliminary Information

A team member will also briefly explain the peacemaking process and the services we provide. Once all of your questions have been answered and you are ready to move ahead with peacemaking, complete and submit the [Peacemaking Terms and Conditions](#) form.

III. Designation and Assignment of Peacemaking Team Member

As soon as a team member receives the completed forms, they will determine whether your matter should be referred to a Cove Church Peacemaking Team Member for coaching, or for mediation, or referred to an independent professional or ministry that is better positioned to meet your needs. If some of the parties involved in your situation have not yet agreed to participate in the peacemaking process, you will be referred to a team member for coaching. If all of the parties involved in your conflict or dispute have agreed to participate in the peacemaking process, your matter will be referred to a team member for mediation.

Coaching

If all of the parties involved have not agreed to participate in the peacemaking process, a team member will be assigned to act as a guide to help you take steps toward reconciling your conflicts and resolve your disputes on your own, if possible.

Mediation

If all of the parties involved in your conflict or dispute agree to participate in the peacemaking process, a team member will assign your case for mediation. In mediation, the Mediator acts as a facilitator to assist and guide the parties in reaching a binding agreement resolving their conflicts and disputes. The parties retain control over the final outcome. The ultimate goal of mediation is to help the parties, with the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, reach a final, legally binding agreement.

IV. Final Conference and Evaluations

At the conclusion of the peacemaking process, we will schedule a telephone conference or an in-person meeting with you to discuss the process, the outcome and to tie up any loose ends.

Clarification: Peacemaking vs. Counseling

Participation in more comprehensive counseling may be something a party involved in peacemaking decides to do or part of a final agreement reached, but your peace advocate, whether acting as Coach or Mediator, is not a counselor in the typical sense of the word. The peace advocate's role and responsibility is solely to help the parties address their conflicts and disputes in a Biblically faithful manner.

For more information about Peacemaking at The Cove Church, submit a [Care Request](#).