

Ground Rules for Synodal Consultations – Group Etiquette

1. Discernment is a key part of the process. Discernment means speaking, listening, and prayerfully reflecting, so pausing in silence between speakers to consider what is said is helpful.
2. This consultation is a safe place to talk — we will treat each other and what anyone says with reverence and respect.
3. One person speaks at a time and each person limits how long he/she speaks so that everyone has time to share.
4. We all will listen with an open mind – listening for understanding rather than listening to make a response.
5. We may pause the conversation at certain intervals to reflect and pray.
6. Our primary mode is dialogue: When we speak, our purpose is to have a robust conversation that leads to ways to move forward.
7. Avoid arguing or comments that seek to advance a personal agenda.
8. We only speak once until everyone has had an opportunity to share.
9. We will be reporting our themes and discussion to the diocese, which will forward to the Bishops' Conference of Scotland
10. No names of individual participants or groups will be shared in a document.
11. As participants, when we tell others of our experience of the consultation we will not attribute anything we share to particular people or group

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