

American Baptist Convention USA
Suggested Language to Use With Local Contacts

We want you to know that we are in discussions with the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD) about ways ABCUSA might assist their Initiative to Revive Civility which is beginning this fall and will continue through the 2018 elections. NICD is a national nonpartisan group that organizes a variety of activities around the country to promote civility and encourage people of different political views to improve the tone of our public discourse. We are interested in their work because we think their mission is consistent with our belief that each person is created in the image of God and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect--whether we agree with them or not.

This fall, the Initiative to Revive Civility is organizing programs that will take place around Thanksgiving called "Setting the Table for Civility." The goal is to have Americans come together before, during and after Thanksgiving for reflection, prayer and dialogue about how we can bridge the deep divisions in our country. There are many things you could do to raise the issue of civility this Thanksgiving including:

- Have a worship service and/or a sermon about the importance of civility and respect
- Meet with leaders of another church that has different political views for dialogue and prayer
- Have a discussion in a youth or adult group about why civility matters to Christians and how we can practice it in our lives.

The Initiative to Revive Civility has resources that can assist you with these and other similar activities on their website which is www.revivecivility.org. It is important that people of faith take the lead in reviving civility in our country and we hope you will plan now to participate in some way in "Setting the Table for Civility" in your congregation and/or your community.