



Using Dialogue To Make Decisions **3.5 hours**

DIALOGUE is a form of communication in which participants work toward the goals of openness, understanding and clarity. Expressions of difference are viewed within a context of achieving a fuller vision of the whole. Dialogue is based on five principles:

- ❖ Respecting others
- ❖ Clarifying assumptions
- ❖ Suspending judgment and reaction
- ❖ The right to speak your truth
- ❖ Expanding the inquiry/ Asking questions

Dialogue is an important element in negotiation. When conflicts arise regarding decision making, dialogue establishes the foundation on which productive negotiation can take place.

This 3½ hour workshop is based on these five principles of dialogue. Participants are presented with a set of tools and strategies for use in decision making.

Use of writing exercises, triads, and small groups will provide opportunities to work on dialogue with self and others. The workshop furthers development of questioning and observation skills.

SUSTAINED KNOWLEDGE THEORY

The workshop on Using Dialogue to Make Decisions is based on the theory that shared and sustained knowledge is what helps communities survive. Practicing the skills of dialogue and negotiation increases the effectiveness of members of a community in conveying information and ideas. Openness to others' perspectives comes from the intention to determine what is good for the community as a whole.

Recent scientific research has shown that biology affects behavior *and* behavior affects biology, from genetic characteristics to acute response to stress. Social roles and biology, are not opposing explanations of human behavior, but are inextricably interwoven. This knowledge gives us a basis for the proposition that re-establishing community is not only possible and desirable, it may be essential for the survival of the human species.