***EDSD 2024 Voting Initiative***

***Relevant Scripture Verses (NIV) for Civil Conversations***

**Listening and Discernment**

James 1:19 *My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.*

Proverbs 18:13 *He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame.*

Proverbs 18: 17 *The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him.*

Matthew 10:16 *I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.*

Romans 12:2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Colossians 2:8 *See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*

1 John 4:1 *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

**Forgiveness**

Colossians 3:12-13 *Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly beloved, clothes yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

Matthew 18:21-22 *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”*

Romans 12:17 *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.*

Ephesians 4:31-32 *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

I Peter 4:8 *Above all, love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

**Labeling others**

John 7:24 *Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.*

John 15:12 *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

Luke 6: 31 *Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

Ephesian 4:2 *Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

James 4:11-12 *Brothers, not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.*

**Encouragement**

Psalm 34:4 *I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.*

Romans 8:28  *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.*

Joshua 1:9 *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

Romans 15:13 *May the God hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*