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THE PARISH PAPER

October 2018

Don't Disagree, Deliberate

How to Lead Community Conversations in Your Church

The church is no stranger to controversy. Chapter 15 of the Book of Acts describes a heated debate among the apostles at a gathering in Jerusalem. Should Gentiles

be welcomed as Jesus' followers or only Jews who kept Moses' law by getting circumcised? When they resolved

the matter, the letter they sent out to the churches acknowledged God's work in the midst of disagreement:

"For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us,"

they wrote, that even non-Jews should be welcomed

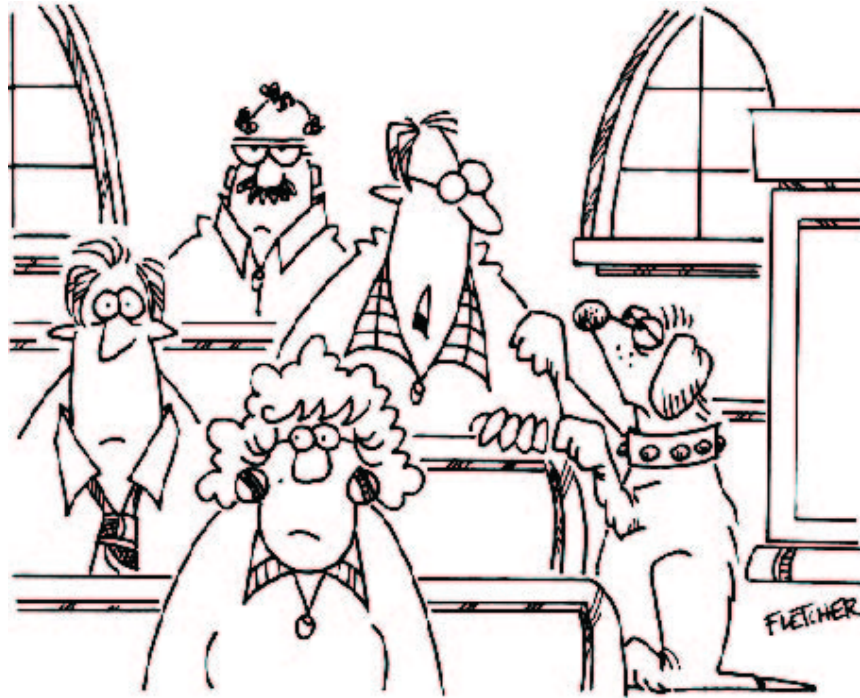
(Acts 15:28). Yet if disagreement about church matters

can be holy, what about community matters? Should church leaders ever discuss issues of public concern and ask community members to join them? If so, how?

Creating Space for Conversation

During an election season, some churches offer forums in which candidates for public office speak to the community...

[Read the full article here.....](#)



"JUST RELAX, BUDDY...
THEY SAID EVERYONE WOULD GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK."

*~~from the Vermont Conference Resource Center
and your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) contribution
to the Vermont Conference which makes this newsletter
and numerous programs available to you and your church.*

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