

EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

DESCRIPTION OF CONSENUS

***We reach consensus when all of us are ready to live with the decision we are making. We do not all have to endorse it wholeheartedly, but we must all be ready to agree not to work or speak against the decision once it is made. Until we come to that point, our tasks are to share our ideas respectfully, listen to each other with open hearts, and find together what God wants us to do.***

**Why Use Consensus?**

* It leads to decisions that are more likely to be supported by everyone.
* It fosters the emergence of unanticipated, better solutions.
* It is more egalitarian and less patriarchal, and it promotes inclusivity.
* It encourages a collaborative spirit.
* It demonstrates the belief that everyone’s voice is important.
* It shows that the people in the room are more important than the decision in question.
* It embodies the belief that how we work together is as important as what we do.
* It invites God more deeply into the work and life of the community.