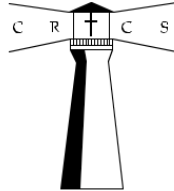


**Conflict Resolution  
& Conciliation Services**



*“Guiding People  
Through Conflict to Peace”*

**WINTER QUARTER 2008**

**PEACE NOTES**



**Focus on Service**

We have the opportunity to serve individuals and organizations with conciliation clauses in their contracts. These clauses can require parties to use biblically-based mediation and, if necessary, arbitration, to resolve any dispute that arises, rather than litigation. Using such clauses can keep parties out of court and promote addressing relationship aspects of a dispute as well as the substantive issues. Including a conciliation clause can be very useful in employment, construction, sales, business relationship, and professional services contracts, providing the opportunity to preserve relationships that litigation can destroy.

A recent case came to us through a conciliation clause in a home remodeling contract. Though the two parties concluded mediation without resolving the amount of restitution due, they did successfully resolve the gossip and slander that had taken place and agreed to withdraw public disparagements, recognizing that 1 Peter 3:8 calls for a different response to being wronged.

The arbitration process successfully resolved the parties' claims and counterclaims concerning restitution. The decision addressed issues of keeping commitments even when it hurts and having “clean hands” (Psa. 15:4b; 24:3-4), as well as self-righteous responses (Phil. 2:3-4). Restitution was resolved in light of biblical principles such as noted in Ex. 22:9 and Lev. 6:1-5. We have been thanked for our decision.

**Abounding Grace**

We are blessed to have Vince Evola, an intern from Pepperdine University with us for the Spring semester. Vince is majoring in Psychology and has a desire to learn more about conflict resolution. He has had the opportunity to observe several cases, and has provided office support to us at CR†CS. We appreciate the opportunity to share our ministry and experience with Vince.

We very much appreciate the gifts received last quarter. They nearly covered our fee reductions for those in need. However, overall we still started the new year with a deficit, rather than the base we need for greater educational outreach to the church and community.

We recently were blessed with a grant of outreach funding from a church in our community. We are very grateful for their gifts and support for our ministry. Please join us in praying for churches in the area to be encouraged to invest in this ministry and open new opportunities to share peacemaking principles and serve people in conflict.

Your support is essential to this ministry and to those we serve, allowing us to reach out to clients that have minimal means to pay for our services.

We thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of a generous gift to help in meeting the needs of those we serve.

“May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”  
Col. 3:15

**Charitable Service Highlight of the Quarter**

A recent example of our charitable service has been to work with two brothers with financial hardship. They came to mediation to resolve conflict between them that had precipitated an altercation that resulted in assault charges against the younger brother. Through mediation, they established a treatment plan for the younger brother, shared mutual confession and forgiveness for actions and reactions, and established a foundation for building a solid, brotherly relationship grounded in trust, instead of fear and judgment. They agreed to be guided by Eph. 4:29-32 and Phil. 2:1-16 and 4:4-9 in their interactions with one another and to live out with each other the Peacemaker Ministries' “Peacemakers Pledge.” Having the agreement before it, the court chose to dismiss the charges.

*A Nonprofit Program of Conflict Resolution & Conciliation Center, Inc.*

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