

**July 24, 2002**

*The consensus model is what we are using to make decisions.*

This is the memory of the process used to reach consensus regarding becoming an affiliate of VOTF at the July 24th 2002 gathering. Since it was so effective we might all want to remember what we did. All voices were heard, discussion had, and consensus reached within 45 minutes.

Creating community and allowing all to be heard is sometimes time consuming and a different way than we are used to operating. We did say that we are looking to operate using a different model.

**Process:**

- Present proposal
- Each person present gives a brief presentation of their thinking regarding the proposal -- what works, what are the concerns. These are recorded. The written input is shared from those who were not able to attend. We base this sharing on the belief that all persons are given a time to "voice". We are an accepting and trusting community that embraces each persons right to voice. We listen with respect and patience.
- Time is then given for some discussion and clarification
- A time for prayer and discernment is taken.
- Proposal presented again. The question is asked if there is anyone who cannot support the proposal.
- Additional discussion, if needed, if consensus cannot be reached.
- A vote is taken if we cannot move forward. A 2/3 majority of those present will pass or fail the proposal