Four Ways of Interfaith Dialogue

People are participating in interfaith dialogue all the time at different levels. We want to help people appreciate the various expressions of dialogue by providing a language for this dynamic.

We find “The Four Ways of Interfaith Dialogue” helpful in understanding what interfaith dialogue is to each of us and hope that there is a greater understanding of dialogue and diversity through this model.

Dialogue of life

In which people of different faiths and spiritual traditions strive to live in an open and neighborly spirit – includes socializing and hospitality

Dialogue of action

In which people of spiritual commitment and faith collaborate with others in building a just society – includes service and working for justice

Dialogue of religious experience

In which people steeped in their spiritual traditions share their ways of searching for God or the Absolute – includes prayer, worship, celebration

Dialogue of theological exchange

In which specialists seek to deepen their understanding of other spiritual heritages.

From a post by DePaul University (Chicago, Ill.). These types were laid out in the 1991 document, Dialogue and Proclamation: Reflections and Orientations on Interreligious Dialogue and the Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.