



## Preparing an Issues List for Mediation

Developing an issues list prior to the mediation is very helpful, even if additional issues are identified during the mediation. An agreed upon issues list will:

1. Help both parties think through the key elements of the conflict.
2. Help both parties examine their own desires and interests related to each issue.
3. Provide opportunity for greater understanding into motivations that underlay the issues.
4. Allow pastors, mentors and attorneys, if participating, to counsel parties regarding their positions.

Make a list of all of the issues that you believe need to be discussed or decided at the mediation. At this stage, the issues might be statements or bullet points. Issues will later be formed into questions that should be answered or dilemmas which need to be resolved. This will assist the parties in finding resolution.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

After you have identified the issues which need to be discussed or resolved, send this form to John Richardson at Level Path Ministries. He will combine the issues from both parties and present a final issues list for approval prior to the mediation.

On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions for yourself regarding each of the issues that you have proposed:

1. What important about this issue?
2. Why is this issue important?
3. If this issue is resolved, what would be different, better or less painful?
4. What about this issue should the other party understand and care about?
5. What about this issue should you be ready to understand from the other party?
6. What is the range of possible solutions to this issue?

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