

WE ARE ONE

AS FELLOW COMMUNITY MEMBERS LIVING WITH CONCERN AND FRUSTRATION OF THIS WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC'S EFFECT, WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING HOLDS TRUE:

Our enemy is the virus, not each other. As we move toward reopening, we need to work together as one community to overcome this disease and its effects on our family, friends and neighbors.

We commit to the following to achieve our “We are one” objective:

Respect - Our conversations will be respectful of all points of view. COVID-19 creates a conflict between public health and our economy. We seek evidence-based, data-driven solutions based on the expertise within our medical and business community and the perspectives of people across our region. Every person’s opinion, offered respectfully and based on facts, counts.

Empathy - We seek to understand the many different ways COVID-19 has impacted our community. It creates a health risk for everyone, although some people (health care and other essential workers, large families), face more risk than others. Social distancing creates economic harm disproportionately throughout the community and damage as real as that directly caused by the disease. Yet we know there is a real threat and we should take some actions like avoiding crowds and wearing masks that nobody enjoys.

Compassion - Our hearts go out to people across our community. Fears for economic and health impacts and the ability to protect loved ones from both are real. We need to work together to reduce the damage of economic and health impacts.

Civil Communication - We are committed to increasing civil dialogue to increase understanding and to find solutions that best fit our community. We oppose the use of violence or threats.

Finding Balance - There is too much unknown and no one person is knowledgeable enough for there to be one right path. We seek solutions that best balance health safety and economic security as defined by the people across our community. Health and prosperity go hand in hand together. Reopening decisions need to be based on safely producing a healthy economy as soon as possible. That requires COVID-19 impacts that do not overwhelm the capacity of our health care system or incur high mortality in at-risk populations.

Hope - That we will look to our better angels to work together and use this trial by fire to produce an even better community.

Everyone who lives in this region helps to define who we are as a community. These are the values we stand for and hope you will join us.

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