

## A Framework for Dialogue Across Difference at JCU

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We are an educational institution that **fosters dialogue across difference** as an essential component of our Jesuit Catholic mission. Accordingly, our campus is marked by three distinct characteristics:

- John Carroll University is a place of **deep conviction**: Our distinctive way of proceeding is grounded in our Jesuit Catholic commitment to the inherent dignity of every human person, concern for the common good, and passion for the pursuit of truth.
- John Carroll University is a place of **generous openness**: Our recognition of a transcendent truth that is always wider than what we can see calls us to engage with new ideas, fresh arguments, and different perspectives—particularly those of the marginalized—in our search for greater understanding.
- John Carroll University is a place of **transformative learning**: We bring our convictions into dialogue with those of others in a way that upholds their dignity and supports a genuine community of inquiry where all have the opportunity to grow.

Thus at John Carroll University:

| This means . . .   | This does not mean . . .  |
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| deep commitment to our mission and our values.   | uncritical relativism.  |
| active engagement aimed at mutual understanding.   | passive tolerance of others.  |
| shared commitment to dialogue.   | agreement on every issue.   |
| the right to speak, protest, and demonstrate in safe, constructive, and respectful ways. | license to act individually or collectively in violation of university policies or legal obligations. |

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| housing a diversity of positions and fostering constructive engagement across differences to advance JCU's educational mission. | taking an institutional position on issues that do not directly touch on JCU's educational mission. |
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**A Guiding Ignatian Principle:** As difficult as it can be in such polarizing times, we accept the challenge of St. Ignatius to be “more ready to put a good interpretation on another’s statement than to condemn it” (*Spiritual Exercises* 22). Though we may disagree—and disagree profoundly—it is always a gift to understand another person. We have a right to speak, and a responsibility to listen. Through respectful dialogue across differences we realize our vision of being “an inclusive community where differing points of view and experiences are valued as opportunities for mutual learning.”