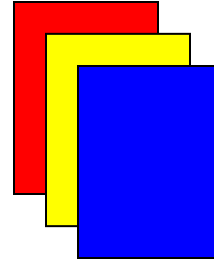


## Consensus Cards



### Con-sen-sus=

“general or widespread agreement among all the members of a group”

*“Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.” Phil 2:2*



Consensus cards were introduced at Gathering 06 to help us communicate. These simple red, yellow and blue cards have been used effectively in international settings as a way to overcome language barriers in the process of “agreeing together”. After experiencing them first-hand, David Wiebe and Willy Reimer introduced them to Executive Board, who in turn was eager to use them at Gathering.

Using the cards allows everyone to get a sense of the shifting inclinations and mood of the group. Over the course of communication on an issue, more people feel heard. Their use at Gathering introduced a fun element to the decision-making as well – especially valuable when discussing some controversial or emotionally-laden issues.

### *How the consensus cards work:*

**Red cards indicate “warmth”**- that is, when the red card is shown the delegate is showing support for the direction being taken by the comments. Support may be weak or strong- the card only indicates the inclination toward support.

**Blue cards indicate “coolness”**- that is, when the blue card is shown, the delegate is indicating opposition to the direction being taken by the comments. Opposition may be weak or strong- the card only indicates the inclination toward opposition.

The red and blue cards may also be called for in the middle of a discussion as a “straw poll”.

**Yellow cards are used for voting** and may be shown for support or opposition to a motion. The yellow cards allow for better visibility than a mere “show of hands”.

*Note:* the cards we used were 3x4 inch card stock.