

## Philosophy of Student Discipline

The discipline process that is in place at Liberty University is designed to help maintain an environment that supports the spiritual development and academic success of our students. Additionally, correction and confrontation, carried out in a spirit of gentleness is an important part of being more Christ-like. Liberty University desires to remain an environment where spiritual development and academic success can easily occur. Liberty University desires for all LU community members to become more Christ-like. Liberty University firmly believes that discipline is *training in godliness*.

## Our Purpose

The purpose of the Office of Student Conduct is to uphold and review the University's code of conduct, and address incidents of misconduct in a just, caring, and restorative manner.

Restorative Justice Program  
Office of Student Conduct  
Liberty University  
Lynchburg, VA 24502  
(434) 582-2320  
[studentconduct@liberty.edu](mailto:studentconduct@liberty.edu)

[liberty.edu/studentaffairs/officeofstudentconduct](http://liberty.edu/studentaffairs/officeofstudentconduct)

Hours 8:00am – 4:30pm M-F



Restorative Justice Program

\*Special Thanks to Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services at Colorado State University for the use and reproduction of their material



## Restorative Justice Program

...If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone...

Romans 12:18

## What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice is a process that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by offenders. It is best accomplished when the parties themselves meet cooperatively to decide how to repair the harm. This can lead to transformation of people, relationships and communities.

Restorative justice is a different form of discipline in several ways:

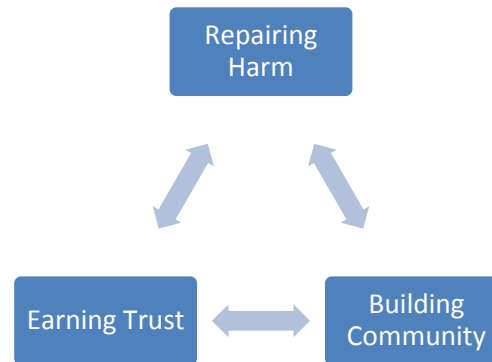
**First**, it views violations more comprehensively- rather than defining violations as simply law-breaking, it recognizes that harming parties cause harm to people, communities and themselves

**Second**, it involves more individuals in responding to violations rather than giving key roles only to the Office of Student Conduct and the offenders, it includes victims and community members.

**Third**, it measures success differently- rather than measuring how much punishment is inflicted, it measures how much harm is repaired or prevented.

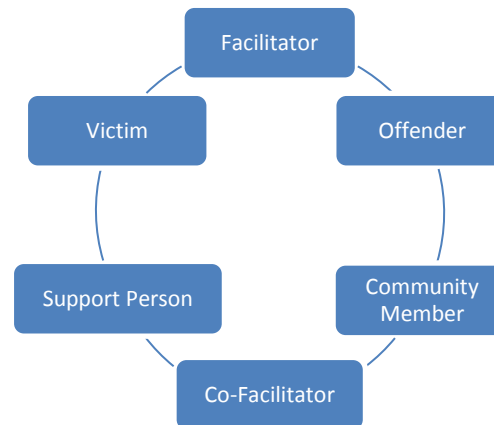
(Adapted from Centre for Justice and Reconciliation, Prison Fellowship International, Nov 08)

## What are the Goals?



## Who is involved?

A Restorative Justice Group Conference may look like...



## Why Restorative Justice?

### Benefits for Offender

- Share story to explain why events occurred
- Apologize to person(s) harmed
- Decide with the victim how to repair harm
- Treated with dignity. Not shame or disrespect

### Benefits for Victim

- Have questions answered about how and why events occurred
- Express feelings to offender
- Have greater say in how the harm is repaired
- Express feelings in a safe environment with minimized chance of re-victimization

### Benefits for Community

- Help with reintegration of victim and offender
- Rebuild community

(Adapted from Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services, Colorado State University)