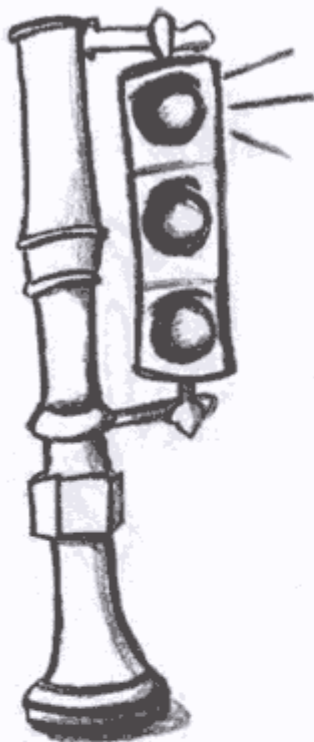


Stoplight Cards



Stoplight cards is a decision making method, similar to Levels of Consensus, but uses red, yellow and green cards, rather than fingers, to indicate agreement, hesitation or disagreement with the decision being proposed.

When it is useful:

- when you don't need a very subtle understanding of people's positions
- when you need to be moving more quickly than Levels of Consensus allows
- when holding up fingers is uncomfortable for the group

How to use it:

1. Distribute red, green and yellow index cards or sheets of paper to each participant.
2. When a decision is being proposed, ask group members to indicate with the appropriate card how they feel about the decision:
 - Green means agreement with the decision.
 - Yellow means some hesitation or caution about the decision, or it can be defined as "I can live with it."
 - Red means disagreement or "no go" with the decision.
3. As with Levels of Consensus, any indication of hesitation or disagreement calls for further discussion.

Example:

First Congregational Church is hiring a new Religious Education Coordinator. After much discussion, the committee has developed a tentative job description. You suggest checking for group agreement on the description by using Stoplight Cards. After reminding the group of the process, you ask for a "show of cards." Two people are holding up green, three are holding up yellow, and one is holding up red. You summarize what you see and then turn to the person with the red card. Marietta tells the group that she thinks the money should be spent on missions and that a volunteer should be found for this position, therefore she can't support this expenditure of church funds. After some discussion,