

With Malice Toward None

Self-Organizing Small Groups

Sample Invitation Email

Dear _____,

I hope you can come to an important gathering I am planning (via Zoom) as part of a national effort sponsored by the University of Minnesota and [Braver Angels](#), called [With Malice Toward None](#). The goal is to move past the extreme divisiveness of the Presidential campaign by bringing like-minded people together to consider how we want to regard and treat our fellow citizens who voted the other way. Future steps will involve bringing together those who hold different political views.

As part of this initiative (which also involves colleges, religious communities, and civic groups), I am inviting a small group of people I know and trust (no more than 12 of us) to talk about how we can move forward and, in Lincoln's phrase, "bind up the nation's wounds." The group will consist of people who feel similarly about the presidential election.

To be clear, the idea is not about agreeing with those who differ from us politically, but about refusing to treat them with ridicule and contempt and deciding whether we want to try to understand them and work with them for the good of the country. The With Malice Toward None [pledge](#) captures the spirit of this initiative, as does the "[What We Will Do to Hold the Country Together](#)" letter. If these documents convey something you aspire to, even if they are a stretch right now (you don't have to sign them), I invite you to join me and others in this one-time gathering.

Here is what we will do in our two-hour gathering:

- 1) Introduce ourselves and say why we came.
- 2) Discuss reasons for moving past hostility and contempt for those who voted differently.
- 3) Identify actions steps we each take individually and with others to hold our country together during this time.

We will be using an agenda supplied by Braver Angels, a non-profit committed to depolarizing America. We will meet on (day & date) at (time) for about two hours.

I hope you will join me for this gathering of people who want to find a way forward for our country. Please let me know either way. Time is short and the need is great.