

Workshop: Worship 01 (Conference Leaders)

Name of Session: Bridging the Cultures in your Conference

Scripture Focus: Luke 10, Jeremiah 6:14, Matthew 25:31-46

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Description

How are cultures experienced in your Annual Conference? Is there respect for differences? Does the broader culture seek to identify itself as the standard or does it make room for all voices to be heard? This presentation seeks to engage cultural competency practices that will gain momentum to formulate action plans.

Content

I. My Cross-cultural Experience

II. Embracing Demographic Change as Mission Field & Call—Luke 10

Question: What are the *cultures* in your conference (age, race, ethnicity, sexuality, geography)? What demographic changes have you witnessed? What are the implications of missing the harvest time?

III. Becoming a 212 Conference

The United Methodist Book of Discipline (Paragraph 212)

“When the communities where the church is located experience transition especially identified as economic and/or ethnic, the local church shall engage in **deliberate analysis of the community change** and **alter its program** to meet **the needs and cultural patterns of the new residents**. The local church shall make every effort to **remain in the community** and develop effective **ministries** to those who are **newcomers**, whether of a cultural, economic, or ethnic group, different from the original or present members.”

- a. Analyzing communities
- b. Church as community anchor
- c. Seeing all the people
- d. Focusing outward
- e. Having a plan at every level of the conference
- f. Strategic use of cross racial/cross cultural appointments (and supporting those pastors)

Questions:

How do you make decisions about what churches to close/buildings to sell?

How do you make decisions about new church starts?

Are missional decisions focused inward (denominational survival) or outward (communities and God’s mission in the world)?

Do you have a strategy for cross-cultural ministry?

Do you have a Matthew 25:40 strategy for your conference?
How do you use and understand cross racial/cross cultural appointments?

IV. Engaging Deep Change

- a. Gaps between values and behaviors
- b. Why people and systems resist change
- c. Sabotage & assassination

V. Anti-racism Work and Guilt

VI. Different Ministry Models

- a. Advocacy as Pastoral Care
- b. Justice and evangelism of the same cloth
- c. Deep engagement with the community—relational ministry
- d. Ministry With—letting go of paternalism

VII. The Mission is Yet Alive! Moving forward in this time of ambiguity and change

VIII. Caring for the Soul of the Institution

Some Resources and Worthwhile Reads

A New Dawn in Beloved Community, Bishop Linda Lee, editor

Many Faces, One Church: A Manual for Cross-Racial and Cross-Cultural Ministry, by Ernest Lyght, Glory Dharmaraj, Jacob Dharmaraj

Seven Levers: Missional Strategies for Conferences, Bishop Robert Schnase

Race Matters, Cornel West

The New Jim Crow, Michelle Alexander

The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community, Eric Law

God of the Oppressed, James Cone

Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive Through the Dangers of Leading, Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky,

Change the World: How Ordinary People Can Achieve Extraordinary Results, Robert E. Quinn,

Some Agency Resources: General Commission on Religion and Race, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, Discipleship Ministries