

Workshop: Multiply 11 (Existing Church Segment)

Name of Session: Embracing Multicultural Community in the Black Church Context

Scripture Focus: Luke 10, Jeremiah 6:14, Romans 7:15

Presenter: Rev. Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer of the Connectional Table, 773-714-1517 (office), Connectionaltable@umc.org

Description

Urban and rural communities are changing. Families are moving daily. What happens when the neighbors are from different cultures than those who live in the community now? How are multicultural experiences looking different in the Black Church context? Share ideas on reaching new people in new ways in your current zip code.

Content

I. My Black Church Experience—owning my own social location

II. Embracing Demographic Change

Question: In what ways do you see changes in the community around your church?

III. Becoming a 212 Church

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 the community
- b. Church as community anchor
- c. Focus on newcomers

Questions:

In what ways is your church an anchor in the community? Who would notice if you were gone?

Is your church focused inward or outward? How so?

IV. Advocacy is Pastoral Care—ways in which advocacy in communities of color is pastoral care. Will address issues of:

- a. Policing & Mass Incarceration
- b. Violence
- c. Environment and Climate Change
- d. Food deserts
- e. Addictions

- f. Racism, xenophobia, homophobia & #MeToo

Questions: Which of these issues has the greatest impact in your community?

How might we understand Jeremiah 6:14 in today's context. *“They have treated the wound of my people as if it were not serious, saying, “Peace, peace,” when there is no peace.”*

V. Engaging Deep Change

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

VI. Caring for the Souls and Bodies of the People—a more holistic salvation

VII. Caring for Self

- a. What are your self-care practices?
- b. In which ways do you relate to Paul when he says in Romans 7:15, “I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.”
- c. What is one small thing you can do to care for self today?

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

Some Resources and Worthwhile Reads

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

Race Matters, Cornel West

The New Jim Crow, Michelle Alexander

Zero to 80, Olu Brown

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