LISTENING CIRCLES

Listening Circles Experience
Individuals interested in exploration of a topic with a group of 5 to 7 participants for the purpose of listening and understanding others’ perspectives are brought together by trained facilitators. Topics are determined in consultation with the Peacebuilding specialist. Events can be one-time sessions, introducing participants to the Listening Circle process, or multi-session experiences on the same topic. Specifics will be determined in consultation with hosting group and Peacebuilding specialist.

Listening Circles Process
Implementation and Facilitator Training
An LC implementation process is developed specific to the needs of a defined geographic area (e.g. Mission Center). Emphasis is placed on identification of relevant LC topics, development of an implementation process applicable to the geographic area or group structure, and training of potential LC facilitators.

Other Opportunities:
• Connecting congregations with local conflict resolution services
• Assisting the implementation of conflict resolution programs for the congregation and community
• Teaching interpersonal conflict resolution skills for and with children
• Hosting Intergenerational Interpersonal Peacemaking workshops for adults and children together

To schedule a training in your area call, e-mail, or fax

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FACILITATION & MEDIATION

The ministries of facilitation and mediation provide a way for people to process their differences or make decisions in a constructive and productive manner. Trained, impartial mediators and facilitators create a safe environment for discussion to occur.

Where conflict or disagreement exists, trained mediators guide an established process whereby participants can confidentially and effectively address their differences.

The role of the mediator includes establishing a safe and equitable environment for the conversation, identifying and implementing appropriate guidelines, assisting participants in sharing and hearing each others’ perspectives, and guiding the process.

Opportunities for the ministries of facilitation and mediation include:

- between individuals who are struggling with their differences (mediation)
- with groups dealing with difficult issues or group decisions
- in dialogue groups for understanding perspectives about potentially divisive matters

Many more opportunities for ministry are available. Please call or e-mail, and together we can determine a process that can help.

TRAINING

Interpersonal Peacebuilding
Participants discover personal styles in conflict, practice communication skills, help build understanding, and experience a cooperative decision-making process for resolving differences with others while nurturing the relationship. 15-hour course, no prerequisite

Talk It Out
Adults learn to use the Talk It Out curriculum to teach children, kindergarten through 5th grade, the skills for peacefully resolving their disagreements. 3-hour course, Prerequisite: Interpersonal Peacebuilding

Communication Styles
High school-age youth through adults discover their styles of communicating when working with others. This workshop provides insights to each participant’s communication styles in both calm and distressed situations. An assessment tool is the basis for training activities accompanied by a booklet. 3-hour course, no prerequisite

Listening Ear
Participants are equipped to be attentive listeners when one party in a difficult situation comes to discuss his or her concerns. 15-hour course, Prerequisite: Interpersonal Peacebuilding

Meeting Facilitation
The focus of this course is organizing and leading gatherings in a way that encourages open, productive communication and cooperative decisions to enhance meetings and discussions from Sunday school classes to business meetings. 15-hour course, Prerequisite: Interpersonal Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding Skills Refresher
This workshop is for those who have completed the Interpersonal Peacebuilding training or Listening Ear training. Participants review and practice communication skills and processes learned in those trainings. Contents of this workshop are tailored to meet the needs of the group. 8-hour course, Prerequisite: Interpersonal Peacebuilding and/or Listening Ear

Cooperative Decision-making
Participants learn how to organize and guide meetings to promote broad participation in consensual decision-making. 24-hour course, Prerequisite: Completion of Interpersonal Peacebuilding, Listening Ear, and Meeting Facilitation training

For consultation and scheduling call, e-mail, or fax Sandee Gamet, Consultant and Trainer.

To help people live in peaceful relationships, the following programs and services are offered.