

HOW PRESBYTERIES CAN PARTNER TO ADVANCE INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP

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USING THIS CONVERSATION GUIDELINE

- *For this particular workshop, we highly recommend listening/watching the workshop together with your small group.*
- *Below are some points from the workshop around which you can have conversation but feel free to go off script and use any other parts of the workshop that stirs a response.*
- *Remember, the conversation is not about recalling content, but sharing your honest responses to them, both emotionally, intellectually, and even physically. Help create a safe space in which one can explore and express all aspects of their response to the workshop.*
- *Every question will land differently for a white person and for a person of color because of the racialized experience in America. And some questions are directed to white people (e.g. how they were taught racism) and others are directed to people of color (e.g. how they experienced and responded to racism).*

INTRODUCTION:

1. Below are some points from the workshop around which you can have conversation. Feel free to go off script and use any other part of the workshop that creates a thought or question for you.
2. The workshop is not about information per se. My hope is this creates conversation for you as you reflect upon your own context for intercultural leadership and ministry.
3. The workshop is intended to be a conversation starter, providing ideas for further reflection and implementation in your own context. How does this idea or point apply to my leadership and my leadership context?

PREMISE:

Telling our story - Think about your story as an embodied journey of culture and ethnicity. Consider the impact of your story as a cultural narrative full of rich symbols and valuable meaning. Sheldrake (2001) speaks about the relationship between story and place. He says narrative is key to our identity because story helps us make sense of the often times unrelated events of life. By examining our story, we become familiar with who is present in the story of a place or community.

1. How has race as a construct worked to create myths identity and community in your origin story?
2. Reflect on the relationship between race or ethnicity and culture. Describe their relationship in your community.
3. Is race or ethnicity and culture and language highly connected for you and for those your presbytery is hoping to partner with?

IDENTIFY:

Consider a Biblical story and reflect on how Jesus uses a “story from below” to model the intercultural nature of the gospel. Some stories include:

1. The Centurion soldier’s faith as greater than Jesus’ own tribe.
2. Acts 2: different ethnicities finding unity in the diversity through the Holy Spirit.

PRACTICES FOR PARTNERSHIP:

1. Accountability and mitigating our power - In your partnerships for intercultural ministry and leadership are you always in the driver’s seat? Can you submit to those who lack power in society?
2. Moving from transactional to transformational - a practice in proximity. Intercultural partnerships require proximity.
3. What else does a commitment to transformational presence require of us? Willing to be uncomfortable? Not always knowing the right answer, maybe? What else?
4. How might other practices serve to engage the transformational? Transaction tends to keep our positions and distance unchanged. Intercultural leadership seeks partnerships that mutually transforms distance and position.