

## Transitional Partnership Model Talking Circle Format

Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Hello,

We are so glad that you are interested in joining the **Transitional Partnership Model Talking Circle**. Please know that **Mission, Vision, and Leadership (MVL)** and **Personnel Working Group (PWG)** are praying for these conversations and we hope they will be informative, and life-giving to all who participate.



Building on the communications skills presented at the [Mennonite Peace Center Training](#) (sponsored by the PSF in 2019) and rooted in scripture which reminds us that “everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...” (James 1:19) we hope these talking circles will allow us to:

- **connect** around the Interim Partner model, looking for **new ways to understand the situation**
- **create a supportive environment** where we can relax and focus on the leadership needs of our Presbytery
- **empathize with and respect ourselves and others**, regardless of our beliefs, words, or conduct
- **summarize** the essence of our views.

To prepare for the talking circles, before the meeting, we invite participants to **fill out a 3x5 index card or piece of paper with:**

- the **name** of the group or person you wish to address
  - *e.g. Personnel Working Group*
- a **compliment** or **statement of appreciation** for that person or group
  - *e.g. I appreciate that you meet once a month to help encourage our staff.*
  - **Note:** Oftentimes we get into fixed mindsets, in how we relate to people who have hurt us or groups that have lost our trust. Starting with a compliment helps us to neutralize, or even transform, our view of a person/group and reinforce the positive aspects of the person/group.
- **one question, clarification or piece of feedback** for the person or group
  - *e.g. I wonder why..., please help me to understand more about..., I feel \_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_...*
  - **Note:** When writing a question, clarification, or piece of feedback please use "I statements," moving away from blame, and getting straight to what

is important about the issue. These **statements should be short and limited to one thought per card.**

**Please repeat this process for every question, clarification, and comment you have.**

We know your time is valuable, and we hope this process will help us to honor the time we spend together.

In God's grace,

Rev. Dr. Theresa Cho, Co-chair Mission Vision, and Leadership

Rev. Karen Thistlethwaite, Co-chair Mission Vision, and Leadership

Rev. Monte McClain, Co-chair Personnel Working Group

Rev. Dr. Sarah Reyes, Co-chair Personnel Working Group

