

The Clarkston Dialogues
Local Ecumenism Training
September- October 2020

First Presbyterian Church and Holy Family Catholic Parish: Neighborhood Dialogue Training

September 14- October 17, 2020
Overview

Welcome back to those of you who joined us in Lent 2020, and a warm welcome to those who are joining us for this first time. We greet you in the name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Our two churches are coming together to get to know one another's theologies and to experience the love of the Father, the grace of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit amid our very real differences [2 Corinthians 13.14]. Please see the end of this document for a list of our Assumptions and Goals.

We have changed our delivery approach due to COVID-19:

- Each Monday for five weeks, we will post links on both church web sites: the link to Karen's weekly lecture video on YouTube, and the link to her handouts on Google docs.
 - Or, if you prefer, there will be a screening of the video at 10 am each Thursday during the series, in the Narthex/Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. Handouts will be available.
 - Based on the lecture, you may complete a "What I Want to Know" form which you may bring to the Saturday gathering.
 - On five Saturdays, Karen will lead two separate sessions in Holy Family Parish Hall, one at 9:30 am and one at 11:00 am. **Masks will be worn, and social distancing will be practiced.** During these sessions, you will have a chance to process the week's materials and to dialogue and pray with members of both churches.
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- **We urge you to select a Saturday time that you will be able to attend consistently for the five weeks.**

- TO REGISTER: Please contact Danielle Paris at Holy Family Parish [tel: 509-758-6102 /email: dparis@dioceseofspokane.org]

We are grateful to Father Jeff Core for welcoming us into the Holy Family Parish Hall which is large enough for social distancing. **Many of your dialogue partners are older or have health conditions, so please do wear a mask.**

Below you will find a schedule of materials and gatherings, information on what topics we will explore each week, a list of personnel, and the statement of Assumptions and Goals.

Training Schedule

Week One Materials Available Online: Monday, September 14

Face-to-face gathering: Saturday, September 19, Holy Family Parish Hall

9:30 am; 11:00 am (PLEASE REGISTER FOR YOUR PREFERRED TIME)

Week Two Materials Available Online: Monday, September 21

Face-to-face gathering: Saturday, September 26, Holy Family Parish Hall

9:30 am; 11:00 am

Week Three Materials Available Online: Monday, September 28

Face-to-face gathering: Saturday, October 3, Holy Family Parish Hall

9:30 am; 11:00 am

Week Four Materials Available Online: Monday, October 5

Face-to-face gathering: Saturday, October 10, Holy Family Parish Hall

9:30 am; 11:00 am

Week Five Materials Available Online: Monday, October 12

Face-to-face gathering: Saturday, October 17, Holy Family Parish Hall

9:30 am; 11:00 am

Video Topics, Handouts, and Activities

Week One: “Presbyterians and Catholics Together?”

Video Topics: What is Ecumenism? /The Catholic Picture/ Ecumenical Assumptions/
Overview of Project/Photo Gallery

Handouts: Nine Enduring Differences (Nicene Creed)

Activities: Mixers/Mapping denominations/ Getting started with our theologies

[Bring your “What I Want to Know” form to the Saturday session]

Week Two: “How Do We Start the Conversation?”

Video Topics: Theological Bases for Local Ecumenism in our Two Traditions/What is
Dialogue? / The Hallmarks of Dialogue

Handouts: Nine Enduring Differences (Nicene Creed)

Activities: Theology questions and answers/Dialogue practice/Prayer

[Bring your “What I Want to Know” form to the Saturday session]

Week Three: “Salvation: How Do We Get to Heaven?”

Video Topics: Predestination and the Salvation Puzzle/ Two Salvation Stories/Augustine
Past and Future

Handouts: The Salvation Stories (Calvin and Aquinas)

Activities: Theology questions and answers/Dialogue practice/Prayer

[Bring your “What I Want to Know” form to the Saturday session]

Week Four: "Head of the Church: What's Peter Got to Do with It?"

Video Topics: Understanding the Papacy/Reformed Responses to the Petrine Ministry/
The Functions of the Pope (*Ut Unum Sint*)

Handouts: Papal Primacy Worksheet

Activities: Theology questions and answers/Dialogue practice/Prayer

[Bring your “What I Want to Know” form to the Saturday session]

Week Five: “Eucharist: Where’s Jesus?”

Video Topics: A Sacramental Overview/Eucharist and Christology/The Story of Heidelberg Question 80

Handouts: The Heidelberg Catechism on the Lord’s Supper and the Mass

Activities: Dialogue practice/ Next Steps Together in Clarkston? /Prayer

[Bring your “What I Want to Know” form to the Saturday session]

Steering Committee

Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch, Associate Professor of Theology, Whitworth University

kfinch@whitworth.edu

Rev. David Webster, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Clarkston

Rev. Jeffrey Core, Pastor, Holy Family Catholic Church of Clarkston

Sharon Hunt, Principal, Holy Family School

Janis Wallis, Deacon, First Presbyterian Church of Clarkston

Regina Sullivan, Member, Holy Family Catholic Church

Assumptions and Goals

Assumptions

- The New Testament tells us that a unified Body is the will of Christ for us (John 17; Eph 4)
- Shared community witness and service are wonderful, but unity is not real unless we are also working toward agreement in doctrine (church teachings), no matter how difficult the conversation or how far off that unity might seem
- Lay people can thoroughly understand the doctrine of their own churches and can learn how to dialogue with those from other traditions

- In fact, the work of international experts on church unity is not finished until lay people in local settings can participate in it
- Local dialogue is a spiritual discipline that can deepen faith in Jesus Christ and commitment to His Gospel
- The Holy Spirit is among us to guide and direct us when we gather.

Goals

- To come together honestly and respectfully in our differences
- To understand our own church's teachings better as well as those of our neighbor church
- To learn the skills of dialogue that make room for the Holy Spirit
- To know more about the unity reports that Reformed and Catholic theologians have already written together
- To deepen our faith in Jesus Christ and our commitment to His Gospel
- To proclaim the Gospel together in our city by word and deed.