

Workshop/Webinar Resources for

Transforming Justice & Intercultural Ministry

Synod Justice & CALD MCM Officer offers following workshops/webinars which can be run in presbyteries, congregations and groups of lay leaders/ministers who concerned to explore and grow justice advocacy and inter-cultural ministry.

Grace & Race: Racial Justice Webinar/Workshop

Racism is an ongoing problem in Australia. It directly affects significant numbers of Australians. In annual surveys, about one in five Australians report having experienced racial discrimination during the previous 12 months. We are all touched by the sin of racism, although in different ways. How might we have a life-giving, graceful and hopeful conversation on racism, which is not comfortable to talk about? How can we address and challenge “structural racism” without feelings of fear or guilt in order to build up a just and beloved intercultural community?

The aims of the racial justice webinars is threefold:

- to engage in self-examination around privilege and internalised racism (superiority and inferiority)
- to engage in analysis of the systemic nature of racism within the church and wider society
- to offer tools for leaders to begin or continue the work of racial justice in local ministry contexts

The Webinars are designed to help us to become a JUST Intercultural Church and will feature guest speakers across country and overseas with PowerPoint presentations and panel discussions. A guide to assist congregations in conducting faithful and fruitful conversations about racism and additional resources will be provided for anyone interested in exploring anti-racism and racial justice work—for personal reflection; for small group study and action; or other options.

Learning from Covid-19: Creation Care & Climate Justice

What can we learn from the COVID-19 Crisis which is applicable to the care of God’s creation? How can our churches subsequently give serious consideration to appropriate actions to better respond to the ongoing CLIMATE Crisis?

In collaboration with a working group of the Uniting Church Fellowship and Mission Support (UCFAMS) and Synod’s Engagement team, media (video) resources and study guide will be available for congregations and communities of faith.

The aims of the workshop is two-fold: 1) Identify what we need to learn from the COVID-19 Crisis in the light of the Care of God’s Creation; 2) Equip and engage our churches in the raising awareness and taking actions in response to the CLIMATE Crisis in life, worship, and witness to the Hope for the renewal of whole creation.

Through watching video presentations and following discussions, participants will:

- Identify what we need to learn from the COVID Crisis which is applicable to Climate Crisis.
- Be equipped with theological/scriptural/scientific understanding of both Crises
- Engage in prioritising action plans for Creation Care and Climate Justice
- Identify ways in which the churches both individually and collectively engage the public and the politicians in their prophetic witness and advocacy for Climate Justice
- Be encouraged and empowered to spread a message of Hope in Christ who is renewing all Creation.

Building Bridges: Cross Cultural Relations

In seeking to live out our declaration as a multicultural church that celebrates diversity and respects difference, it is vital that we identify and overcome the barriers that exist between people because of different cultural backgrounds.

Building Bridges: Cross Cultural Relations is a two day workshop equipping participants with knowledge and skills needed to build bridges of understanding.

Through scripture, stories and role play, small group dialogue and interactive exercises, participants will:

- Develop greater awareness and skills to understand the significance of people's different cultural backgrounds and experiences.
- Reflect on biblical themes that undergird a commitment to celebrating diversity and respecting difference.
- Better understand and identify elements of racism within the Australian context reflect on the systems of oppression that separate people because of their differences.
- Be encouraged to take specific steps to reduce one's own ethnocentrism in relating to people of different backgrounds.
- Identify some of the bridges needed and begin to explore ways of bridging racial, cultural and other divisions in the congregations, communities and work situations from which people come.

Living Together as God's People

A one-day workshop for congregations that (explore) share property with non-UCA CALD faith communities/congregations with a resource developed by the Assembly Working Group on Intentional Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry, *Living Together as God's People in this Place*.

The sharing of property remains a vital issue in the life of a multicultural church. It can be a source of problems and headaches, misunderstanding and hurts as well as providing the opportunity to engage deeply with one another in relationships of mutual enrichment and joint learning. Sharing property has long been recognised as a gospel, justice and mission issue.

This resource helps Presbyteries as they do mission planning in places where two or more congregations share the same property. It seeks to encourage a transformative encounter between two or more congregations/groups sharing property.

The aim of the workshop is to invite groups of people who share property, to be involved in a process of intentional sharing and cross-cultural conversation leading towards mutually enriching relationships that reflect the love, justice, and hospitality of God.

The workshop will:

- Provide an opportunity for participants listen to each other's stories and reflect on the points of enrichment and tension in their shared life.
- Enable a deeper understanding of one another and foster a sense of partnership and shared vision for ministry and mission.
- Begin the process of developing some agreed patterns, strategies and intentional ways of working together to enable the relationships to grow into the future. (This may take the form of a written 'Covenant' or agreed 'Statement on Sharing' that will guide their ongoing journey together).

Growing Together: Intercultural Discipleship & Learning

How can we disciple people from different cultures? How do we run an intercultural bible study/prayer small group at a congregational setting? What kinds of bible studies, books, and other resources available for ongoing learning and growth?

This is a three-hour workshop for lay leaders/pastors/ministers who are exploring/planning to launch an intercultural learning/discipleship course/program in their congregations and communities. Practical tools for developing Intercultural Ministry in local contexts will be provided.

From Stranger to Friend: Intercultural Hospitality

What it might mean for us as followers of Jesus to live out our faith alongside culturally and linguistically diverse neighbours? Why is tolerance not good enough for us? What are difficulties and opportunities in building relationship with cultural strangers? How to turn strangers into friends? How important to us in the ministry of hospitality amongst all cultures? In what ways does our current life together show that? What do we need to work on and how could we go about that?

Reflecting on Luke 24:13-35 and other biblical passages, this three-hour workshop aims to raise awareness of Christians who encounter people of different cultures/religions/non-religion and to encourage and equip them to journey together with others in friendship and mutual hospitality.

Christian Witness in a multi-cultural/multi-faith world

The multi-cultural and multi-faith realities Christians live in today and a world of post-modern values and concepts are challenging the public witness and pastoral accompaniment of ministers, congregations and churches almost everywhere. In reaction to increasing plurality xenophobia, racism and nationalist populism are growing.

How do we bear faithful, public and embodied witness to God's reign in a multi-cultural and multi-faith world? What kind of paradigm shifts needed for reimagining mission/evangelism? What are relationships between proclamation and dialogue? What does it look like to be a sign of the Gospel and reconciliation?

Drawing on a World Council of Churches hosted Seminar at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute and visit to Taizé Community, Paul Goh presented his findings and reflection on the theme at a forum in 2019. His Power Point presentation material is available on request.

For more information about running these workshops and further resources, please contact Paul Goh, Justice & CALD MCM Officer, pgoh@sa.uca.org.au TEL: 08 826 4244