

Congregational Talking Circle

Saturday, June 4th from 9am until Noon

On this Saturday, our congregation will be gathering for an experience of deep listening that can serve as the basis of clear understanding and healing. Please familiarize yourself with the protocol of our talking circle below. Our sharing will also take place within the framework of our stated congregational **Covenant of Right Relations**. We welcome all who would like to participate. The question we will consider is “what does our congregation do to either enable or block the manifestation of a **Blessed Community?**”

Talking circle protocol:

- Introduce oneself.
- Speak from the heart.
- One person speaks at a time. Only the person holding the talking stick or mic speaks.
- Speak using the first person. (I feel; I perceive; I think; I am...)
- The focus of this talking circle will be on respectfully speaking & listening to understand each other's perspective.
- This talking circle is not about debate; arguing a position, blaming others or problem solving.
- The talking stick is passed around in a clockwise direction (to one's left)
- Respecting each other's time to share, we speak within the time allotted. (a chime will sound when you have one more minute)
- A person may pass the talking stick without speaking.
- We will have time for only one round of the circle.

Note: this is only the first step in a healing process. Next steps will be based on what is said in this circle.

Excerpts from our **Covenant of Right Relations**:

- Strive to create a safe place where all can express themselves freely.
- Speak honestly, mindful of the feelings of others.
- Listen with respect and consideration.
- Respect confidentiality and refrain from gossip.
- Accept personal responsibility for our words and actions.
- Display faith and trust in others.
- Honor differences of opinion and viewpoints.