

Sacred Conversations Training Packet

GOALS

- strengthen relationships between members;
- get people in our congregations to begin thinking about the systems that impact their lives & how our faith calls us to respond
- surface common stories of hope, pain and opportunity;
- build networks we can mobilize to create change; and
- inform the congregation's decision to formally join POWER

How We Are Achieving This Goal

- By holding hundreds of sacred conversations with diverse people of faith across Montgomery County

Intended Outcomes

- A new sense of community will emerge in our congregations and community
- Hundreds of people committed to taking part in concrete action toward POWER's change goals
- POWER will have a greater capacity to act
- Through the experience we will learn how to conduct stronger house meeting campaigns in the future

One-to-One Meetings

Sample Agenda

Tips

Tracking Sheet

House Meetings

Sample Agenda

Getting settled / Relational (optional)

- Provide some time as people arrive for casual chatting and/or conduct an exercise for people to get to know each other. Food/snacks are always helpful if possible.

5 min *Start Meeting / Purpose of this time together*

- POWER credential: who we represent & summarize mission
- Include why you are engaged in this work
- Share purpose of meeting: *Example* – “I want to provide space to talk about some of the most important issues that are impacting our families, and invite you into action to do something about these issues.”

5 min *Introductions*

- Say your name & have participants answer an ice breaker question

2 min *Ground Rules / Expectations*

- Explain the following suggested ground rules:
 - *Everyone talks – and they don’t talk about ‘other people,’ they talk personally about themselves*
 - *Everyone keeps their comments brief*
 - *Don’t interrupt another person*
 - *Don’t try to say someone’s concern isn’t valid or important*
 - *Don’t try to fix a concern that someone shares*

30 min *Video & Discussion/Sharing*

- Show Video: “The Great Myth”
- Facilitate Discussion: Encourage people to share reactions to video according to following questions
 - How does this reality compare with what your values/faith?
 - How are you or those you care about impacted by broken educational, economic, and immigration systems?
 - How do you believe your faith calls you to confront this injustice?
 - *Optional text study:* Possible texts include Nehemiah 5 / Matthew 20:1-16 / James 5:1-6. How did the leader(s) in the text confront injustice? What do we learn that is helpful with what is going on in our society?
 - Should Jews/Christians/Muslims be involved in advocacy, why or why not?

5 min *12 Months of Action*

- We want to change this political system that favors the very wealthy over the common good
- Summarize Campaigns 2013-2014 document

7 min

Call to Action

- Be strong & explicit about the ask that they everyone engage at some level
Pass out and collect “Action Cards” (don’t forget to mention that on the back people can add action ideas that they can do)

2 min

Closing/Prayer

Facilitator Tips

- Don’t have the formal agenda run more than 85 minutes
- Pay attention to who seems most passionate, thoughtful, and engaged in the meeting – these might be potential leaders that you want to have a follow up conversation with
- KEEP CONTROL! There is usually someone in the meeting who will try to dominate and take over a meeting. You have to be willing to step in and politely take hold of the meeting so that it everyone gets a chance to share.
- Make sure everyone is engaged: you could call on someone if they are quiet. One way to ensure everyone shares is after asking a question to the group start at one end of the room and literally go around until everyone had a chance to talk.
- If someone asks a question you don’t know the answer don’t panic (or try and make something up), it’s not your job to know everything! Simply let them know you will try and respond to their question in the near future after you talk with other POWER leaders/staff.

Talking Points about POWER

- POWER is an organization made up of 41 congregations that cross race, faith, neighborhood and class lines.
- POWER’s mission is to bring together people of faith to collectively advocate for public policies that are just and fair, especially for middle/low income families.
- POWER believes that social change comes through the leadership of everyday people in communities across our city and state; POWER seeks to be a vehicle for people to expand their leadership capacity & skills
- POWER is non-partisan and does not endorse any party or candidate
- POWER is a member of the PICO Network; PICO is national faith-based network that includes 60 organizations like POWER (www.PICONetwork.org)

Report/Evaluation Form

Host Name: _____

Congregation: _____

How many people attended the house meeting? _____

What was the highlight of the meeting for you?

What changes would you make if you facilitated a future house meeting?

Based the meeting who do you think is a potential leader in our work?

What were the most powerful stories shared?

Congregation Worksheet

Name of Congregation: _____

Our goal is to engage _____ members of our congregation

We will do this by conducting _____ 1:1 meetings, _____ house meetings and
_____ congregation meetings

Some key members of our congregation that we want to engage are:

Our plan to hold each other accountable between now and December is: