

Crafting Circle Groups

Embrace Storytelling + Hone Listening Skills

Presenters:

Cindy Shoemaker

Maria Banks

Diane Elson Miller

Welcome + Centering Prayer

Who we are + how we met...

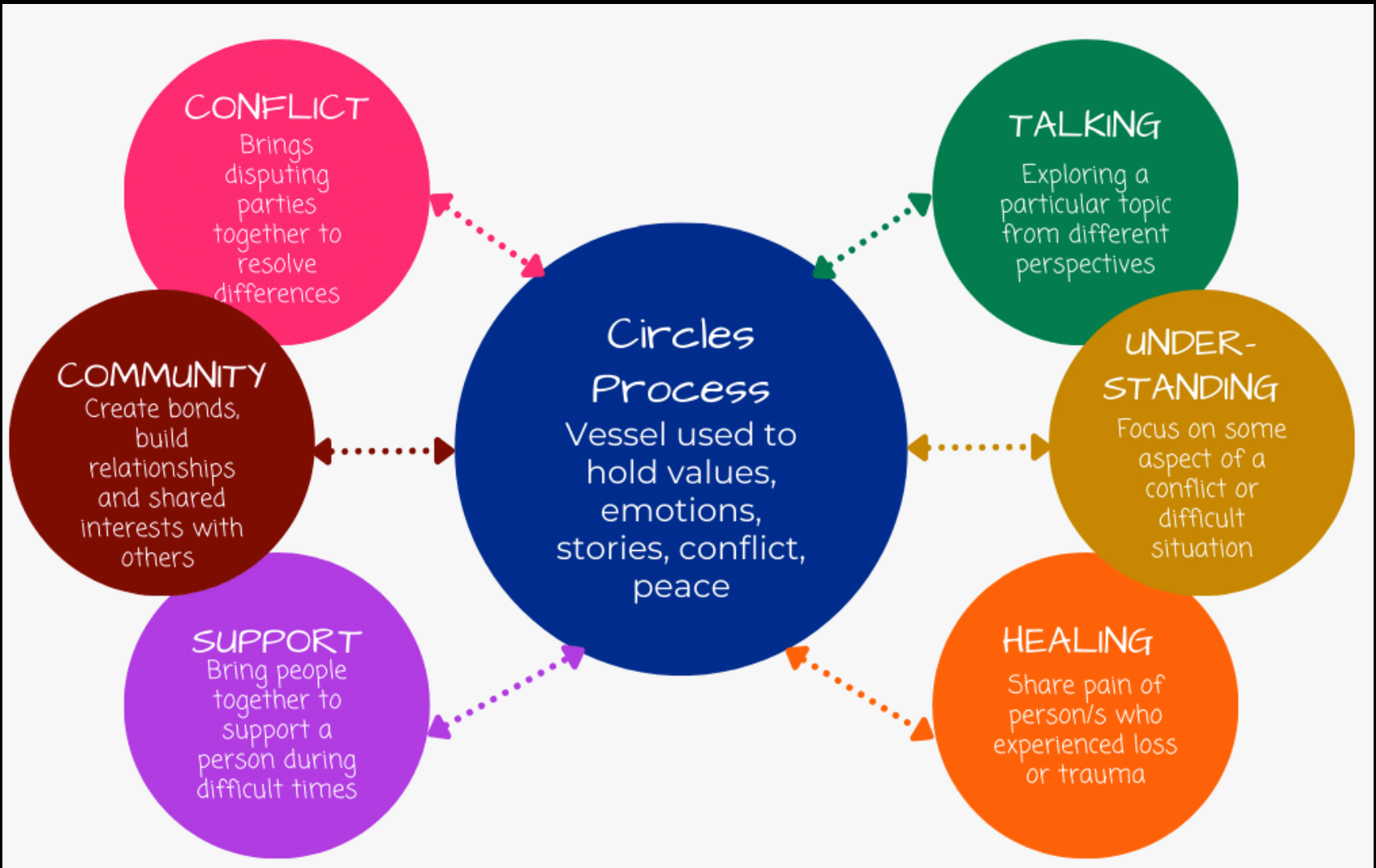
Our faith/heritage story journeys

The CCDA-based history around how this workshop came into being!

Embracing Circles “Together” ...



Types of Circles



Our theme for today + basic circle guidelines:

“What did you embrace as truth on your faith journey that you know is no longer true?”

- ❖ Inviting and welcoming
- ❖ Creating a safe space
- ❖ R-E-S-P-E-C-T
- ❖ Please be succinct
- ❖ Confidentiality

Shifting Conversation Time to Resonance, or Non-resonance Sharing... Connectivity!

- What did you hear that you could resonate with, or not resonate with as seen within your own lived experiences?

OR

- Do you have a similar story, only different circumstances with a different lived experience outcome?

Closing with each group sharing...
conversation highlights for room
connectivity!

Circle Group Closing

Our Information

Maria Banks, Chambersburg, PA

Maria lives in South Central PA and serves as the Attendance Coordinator with the Chambersburg Area School District. Encouraging students to create a story that Navigating the tension of systemic and institutional within the educational system, Maria's passion is to create necessary and equitable spaces where all students can embrace their education with accurate and unfiltered history and where they will be honored and regarded with dignity and respect.

As a community servant, Maria has enjoyed being stretched by and engaging in critical and necessary conversations while serving on the Franklin County Racial Reconciliation Committee, United Way Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee and the District Attorney Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Board. As an educator, she is committed to creating restorative learning opportunities while serving on the school district's Learning and Belonging committee as the Student Voice Coordinator and as the After School Tutoring program coordinator.

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Cindy Shoemaker, Chambersburg, PA

Cindy lives in southcentral PA and has been a licensed professional counselor for 40 years. Her passion is facilitating support groups, creating drop in safe spaces for processing racial and social justice topics, and empowering people in marginalized groups to strive to be their true, best selves. She is heavily invested in Racial Reconciliation of Franklin County, PA, PRIDE, the Mental Health Association and ministries that are attuned to marginalized non-dominant culture.

Cindy's faith journey started in the Lutheran tradition and has morphed more into a deep commitment to carrying out Jesus's command to love and see everyone and all systems through a justice lens. Discovering CCDA has been a breath of fresh air! Cindy strives to exhibit unconditional positive regard, non-judgmental compassion and inclusion in all of her relationships. She embraces a "zest for life", loves to travel, and is delighted to have opportunities to meet and collaborate with others who also embrace open minds and open hearts.

cshoe0815@gmail.com or 717-267-0237

Diane Elson Miller, Chicago, IL

Diane lives in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. She embraced Christian Community Development Association's relocation + redistribution community concepts over 20 years ago, reframing her American Dream lifestyle, centering her family deep within socio-economic diverse urban neighborhoods and public school community. She also spent four years on a church staff crafting relational homeless partnerships, based on dining together and providing medical care.

She serves as the Chief Envisionist Officer at 38Bridges and spends her legacy season creating contemplative circle groups to deepen heritage story understanding and promote equitable systemic reform. She is a CCDA C6 Cohort member, facilitates the CCDA Lifestyle Affinity group and co-leads their Chicago Local Network. Her graduate degree came from The Center for Action & Contemplation's Living School; and, her life mantra is, "think deep + live different".

diane@38bridges.com or 773.791.8353

Resources

Workshop link: 38bridges.com

Books:

- *The Little Book of Circle Processes: A New/Old Approach to Peacemaking* by Kay Pranis
- *The Creative Encounter: An Interpretation of Religion and the Social Witness* by Howard Thurman
- *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *Holding Change... the Way of Emergent Strategy Facilitation and Mediation* by adrienne marie brown
- *Streams of Living Water, Essential Practices from the Six Great Traditions of Christian Faith* by Richard J. Foster
- *The Sacred Enneagram* by Chris Heuertz
- *Wild Mercy* by Mirabai Starr
- *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* by Resmaa Menakem
- *Healing Collective Trauma* by Thomas Hubl & Julie Jordan Avritt
- *No Bad Parts* by Richard C. Schwartz