

From Charity to Solidarity

Four Quadrants of Caring

Come learn how our ministries of caring can also include ministries of mutuality, advocacy and solidarity

Alexandria-Arlington Bi-District Training

January 19, 2020

“Many of us want to help alleviate poverty but we’re not sure how best to go about it. I believe it is not enough to react to poverty, we must also be proactive; we must go ‘upstream’ to attack the root causes. It is also important, all along the way, to build relationships of mutuality, recognizing the presence of God in each person we meet.”

Expect to leave this Time of Learning with:

- 1) An understanding of ministries of mercy and justice grounded in Scripture and our faith heritage
- 2) A keener sense of the downsides and challenges of charitable ministry
- 3) Sensitivity about being in “ministry with” rather than “ministry to.”
- 4) Clarity about how to “go upstream” to address the root causes of issues
- 5) An opportunity to make a significant difference in people’s lives



Rev. Dr. Clayton Childers clayton.childers@gmail.com , an Elder in the South Carolina Conference, and formerly served as Director of Conference Relations with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society in Washington DC

Defining the Terms

Charity — A form of “Mercy ministry,” Charity is voluntary and less personal. Focus is on meeting immediate, basic needs in an efficient way. Food pantries, meal programs, emergency housing, gifts of money, home rebuilding can all be forms of charitable care.

Mutuality — is also a form of Mercy ministry but is not focused on “numbers served” but on building personal relationships. Mutuality involves trust, listening, learning, working in partnership. Mutuality is “Ministry with.....” (one of the “Four Foci” of the United Methodist Church)

Advocacy — As a form of “Justice ministry,” advocacy seeks to discover and address “root causes,” the destructive structures which undergird harmful, oppressive systems. When well done, advocacy is directed at those who have an ability to create systemic change. Advocacy, however, does not require a personal relationship with those who suffer oppression. It is often done on their behalf, or in their name.

Solidarity — Mutuality plus Advocacy equals Solidarity. Solidarity is a form of “justice ministry” addressing root causes but it’s focus is on the power of people joining together to build transformative networks for positive change. The voices of the marginalized are the moved to the center. Allies stand alongside amplifying their story and message.

Want to know more? Contact Rev. Dr. Clayton Childers at the United Methodist Board of Church and Society cchilders@umcjustice.org

Rev. Childers has presented *“From Charity to Solidarity”* at the following:

Grace United Methodist Church Adult Class, Manassas, VA Sept 15 and 22, 2019 (Rev. Rudy Tucker)

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Justice Ministry Day, Reading PA, September 29, 2019 (Barbara Drake)

Church and Society Leader Gathering, Drew University, October 1, 2019 (Rev. Dr. Tanya Bennett)

Church and Society Leadership Training, Vladivostok, Russia, October 15-19, 2019 (Rev. Irina Marulis)

Northern Illinois Board of Church and Society, Chicago IL, November 17, 2019 (Rev. Scott Himel)

Messiah United Methodist Church, Burke VA, January 21 and 27, 2019 (Ann Clymer)

Young Clergy Leadership Forum 2019, Washington DC, January 28, 2019 (Rev. Neal Christie)

Western North Carolina Board of Church and Society (virtual) April 11, 2019 (Dr. Pamela Shoffner)

United Methodist Board of Church and Society, Education Committee, Washington DC April 26, 2019

Directors of Connectional Ministries visit to the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, Washington DC. March 23, 2019 (Rev. Ken Sloane)

Texas Annual Conference Justice Ministries Breakfast, Houston TX, June 27, 2019 (Rev. Kimberly Carney and Rev. Scott Moore)

Wesley Seminary Course of Study for Clergy, The United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, Washington DC, July 12, 2019 (Dr. Joe Bush)

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Atlanta GA (Young Adult “Methodism 101”) August 25, 2019 (Rev. Leslie Lyons Watkins)

West Virginia LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Methodist) Annual Meeting, Charleston WV, September 10, 2019 (Rev. Ken Krimmel)

Multi-district Social Principles Training, North Georgia Conference October 5, 2019 (Rev. Dr. Bernice Kirkland)

Missouri Conference “Mission Summit”, St. Louis, MO, October 11-12, 2019 (Rev. Tina Harris)

The Center for Leadership Excellence, North Carolina Conference, Oct. 29, 2019 (Leah Wiebe-Smith)

Trinity United Methodist Church, Hackettstown, New Jersey, November 17-18, 2019 (Kathy Grimwood)

Alexandria-Arlington Bi-District Day of Learning, Jan 18, 2020 Floris UMC, Herndon, VA (Cynthia Lopynski)

Oklahoma Conference Missions Day, January 25, 2019 (Rev. Jeremy Basset)

To inquire about a presentation clayton.childers@gmail.com 202-341-1534