

## **Building a Culture of Peace in Your Church**

Peacemaking does not always go as easily as we would like it to. Although some people will readily make peace, others will be stubborn and defensive and resist our efforts to be reconciled. Sometimes they will become even more antagonistic and find new ways to frustrate or mistreat us. Our natural reaction is to strike back at such people (peace faking), or at least to stop doing anything good to them (peace breaking).

However, Jesus calls us to take a remarkably different course of action (PEACE MAKING):

*"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ... Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:27-28, 35-36).*

Excerpted from *PeaceMeal*, [www.hispeace.org](http://www.hispeace.org), Oct 14, 2009

**Intended outcome:** To provide a safe environment to expose and then reconcile relational and systems issues through confession, repentance, and forgiveness. Start praying NOW!!!

**These interactive leadership trainings will consist of four parts to Build a Culture of Peace:**

**All participants are asked to complete the reading and writing assignments prior to the training session to maximize the training time.**

### **Session 1 — Foundation: Glorify God – II Corinthians 9:12-15**

This session will focus on the **foundational** introduction (knowledge/remembering/understanding) of The Principles of Biblical Peacemaking and how the church is to conduct herself while in the midst of conflict, internal and external conflict, using the *Peacemaker Ministries brochure*.

### **Session 2 — Framing: Get The Log Out of Your Own Eye – Matthew 7:1-5**

This session will focus on **framing** (applying and analyzing) by using the *Peacemaker Ministries Workbook*. This resource is meant to help you walk through a present or past conflict and think about it from a different perspective. By honestly answering the questions and reading the related Scriptures and sections of *The Peacemaker*, you will be well on your way to resolving that conflict in a way that honors God.

### **Session 3 — Plumbing and Electrical: Gently Restore – Galatians 6: 1-5**

This session will focus on the **plumbing and electrical** “commandments, statutes and precepts” (evaluation) stage of the building process, using the brochure *Judging Others: the Dangers of Playing God* Culture of Peace series. This resource teaches practical ways to guard against the

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uncharitable judgment tendency and to follow Jesus' example of making accurate and charitable judgments about others.

### **Session 4 — Finishing Touches: Go and Be Reconciled - Matthew 5:23- 24**

This session will focus the **finishing touches** stage of Building a Culture of Peace. You can stand back and look at the finished product and ask God, "Are you finished building me yet? If not, what other lesson (s) am I to *work* on?" As an effective leader, one of your most important roles is to first understand what your motives are (the good, the bad and the ugly ones). Then, as a Transitional Leader, your role is to lead people to accomplish their Divine Assignment for Kingdom Building. We will use a Culture of Peace Series brochure "Words That Cut: Learning to Take Criticism in Light of the Gospel. by Rev. Alfred Poirier.

#### **Training facilitated by:**

**Sandra H. Quick, MAEd, MAPC, Certified Christian Conciliator™**

**JOY Unspeakable, LLC**