



Foothills Presbytery Courageous Conversations



Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. The next greatest commandment was to love our neighbor. But how can we truly love our neighbor if we don't know our neighbor? The Antiracism Ministry team and Courageous Conversations writing team invite you to engage in "Courageous Conversations" in order to know your neighbor. These videos feature people in Foothills Presbytery telling their own stories – stories that may be very different from our own. As we listen, we learn, and we become better informed. With greater understanding of our neighbor, we can live in ways that encourage deeper, more authentic relationships. Listening deeply to these stories, and having intentional conversation around them, we open ourselves to a better understanding of issues we often avoid. Christ calls us to love one another (John 13), to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2), and to be compassionate to one another (Luke 6:31). Engaging in courageous conversations helps us answer that call.

Suggested outline for each viewing:

1. LISTEN

- Briefly review some of the touchstones
- Open with Dwelling in the Word: Acts 10: 9-16 and Acts 10: 19-28
- Watch the Interview/recording

2. REFLECT

- Engage with the Guiding questions:
 - What gave you pause?
 - What questions do you have?

3. ACT

- What do you think God is saying to us? (Be/Do)

4. REFLECT

- What themes did you hear?
- Who is missing from the conversation?
- **What feedback do you have for the CC?**

5. CONCLUDE with prayer

Dear God of the Still, Small Voice: Silence in us any voice but yours that we may discern your will and intentions from this experience of hearing various voices and life experiences. You know the stories we tell and the stories we hide. You know the stories of our joys and the stories of our sorrows. In sharing stories with one another, may we multiply our joys and halve our sorrows. May our stories grow together, our hearts leaning toward one another and our lives growing together toward you. Allow our hearts to become open and intentional in unifying all your children based upon the love you so freely offer to each of us, regardless of our many differences. Help us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that together we might live as your beloved community. Amen.