



Transformational Communities of Praxis 2019 PROGRAM INFORMATION

The *Transformational Communities of Praxis* program is designed for a church and community resident team to begin the process or go deeper in the application of community development processes with the end goal in mind of effecting measurable transformation within a given community. It is hoped that through this program, models of ministries applying community development principles and processes will emerge to serve as reference points and even teaching centers of spiritual transformation within the church and community.

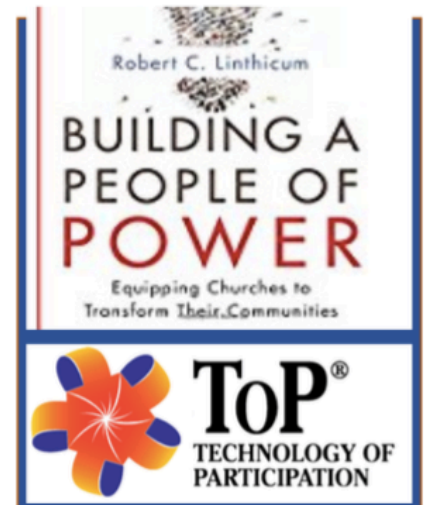
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Over a one-year period, participants will gain training, knowledge, and application of asset-based community development [ABCD] process and methods, facilitation techniques, action planning and application, identifying underlying contradictions and challenges within communities, and the understanding of *Missio Dei* – the mission or sending of God.

Learning will occur through intensive 2 to 2½ day sessions, online reflection conversations, teaching webinar presentations, and opportunities to attend national level United Methodist Church sponsored / related learning conferences. The expectation is that teams will apply what is learned to their context per their defined action plans and measurable outcomes.

Learning Session content is based on the biblical basis of SHALOM [Jeremiah 29:7] and the United Methodist Church's Communities of SHALOM framework that seeks to apply long-term holistic and sustainable change approaches to community development.

S	Systemic, sustainable change
H	Health, healing, harmony, and wholeness
A	Assets-Based Community Development (ABCD)
L	Love of God, self, and neighbor
O	Organizing for community transformation
M	Multi-faith, multi-cultural collaboration



TEAM APPLICATION PROCESS

The Transforming Communities Vision Team is receiving request for teams to apply for participation in this program. Teams applying should be composed of no more than 5 persons, with 2 persons being community residents, 2 persons being church members, and 1 person being the pastor or a designated church staff member. Four teams will be selected for each year's Transformational Communities of Praxis class. The applying team should possess the willingness and readiness for this learning opportunity and the ability to meet the team composition requirement.

Submittal deadline for 2019 – CLASS 3 team applications is December 14, 2017. Each team should complete the attached **TEAM APPLICATION FORM**, submitting the completed form to the Mission Vitality Center – Office of Outreach Vitality via skennerdell@riotexas.org.

PROGRAM / TEAM PARTICIPATION COST COVERAGE

This program is funded through a grant from Methodist Healthcare Ministries. Grant funding will cover approximately 75% of the program cost offered to teams. The program covers team participant cost for: learning session lodging and meals, an allotment of \$2500 per Team to attend their selected Connectional Learning Event, and general program costs.

Each team will cover their cost for: round-trip team travel in attending learning sessions in San Antonio, the purchase of books and printed articles, and partial cost of attending, as a team, Connectional Learning Events to compliment the provided \$2500 subsidy per team.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The program consists of three basic components: 1.) intensive in person learning sessions, 2.) online reflection conversations and webinar learning sessions, and 3.) opportunities to attend connectional learning events. Sessions will be taught by various field experts as well as facilitated by members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team and the Office of Outreach Vitality.

Overall Program Learning Schedule

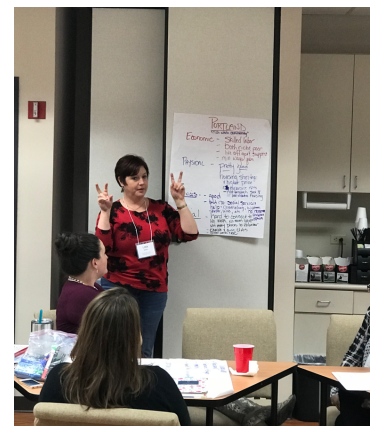
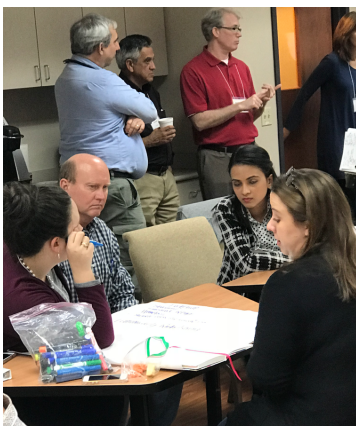
All leaning components are scheduled on Fridays and / or Saturdays to accommodate as best possible the schedules of participating laity and clergy.

Learning Session Schedule

Each Learning Session, with the exception of Session 2, will begin with lunch at noon on Friday and adjourn on Saturday by 3:30 pm. Each learning session will provide approximately 14 hours of learning content. Learning Session 2 will begin on Thursday evening with dinner and end on Saturday at 3:30 pm. Facilitation training will occur during this session.

Connectional Learning Event – Team Options

As mentioned, the program provides \$2500 for each team towards the cost of attending a connection learning event. Each team is responsible for the remaining cost coverage. Depending on the event location and total cost of registration, travel, lodging, and meals – team cost outlay could be anywhere from \$200 to \$400 per team member. Below are the various events to choose from.



PROGRAM TIMELINE

December 14, 2018	Team Application Deadline for Transformational Communities of Praxis 2019
January 18, 2019	Team Orientation to Transformational Communities of Praxis 2019 at 12noon via ZOOM
February 15–16, 2019	Learning Session 1 <i>begins Friday at noon until Saturday at 3:30 pm – RTC Center San Antonio</i>
May 16–18, 2019	Learning Session 2 <i>begins Thursday at 5:30 pm until Saturday at 3:30 pm – RTC Center San Antonio</i>
September 13–14, 2019	Learning Session 3 <i>begins Friday at noon until Saturday at 3:30 pm – RTC Center San Antonio</i>
October 12 – 15, 2109	Connectional Learning Event Option <i>Christian Community Developers Conference – Dallas, Texas</i>
October 26–28, 2019	Connectional Learning Event Option <i>Church for All People Conference – Columbus, Ohio</i>
October 14, 2019	Request for Team Applications for Transformational Communities of Praxis 2020 via www.riotexas.org
December 13, 2019	Team Application Deadline for Transformational Communities of Praxis 2020

