

MY NEIGHBOR: A GIFT OF GOD

Repairing the Beloved Community

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Events and situations of at least the past two decades, perhaps beginning with the events of 9/11, have forced many of us to consider, and to reconsider our attitudes and opinions about “the other” -- including those of another culture, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, or political party.

Many of us who previously felt secure within the realm of those “like us” are increasingly challenged to think about and even interact with those who differ from ourselves.

As Christians we are challenged even more greatly to view and accept those we consider “the other” to be related to “us”.

What does Christian faith and spirituality have to help guide and equip us as we strive to be faithful to God and all whom God has made?

This five-module program guides participants through a process of reflecting on and discussing some of the core precepts of Christian faith and spirituality to discover faithful and practical responses to the current challenges of our society at this time.

Purpose of this Program:

1. To examine what the Christian tradition has to say about our relationship to our neighbor – “the other” —those who are different from us.
2. To take a fresh look at the Christian doctrines of Creation and the Incarnation to see what implications they have for our understanding of, and behavior towards “the other.”
3. To discover how the Holy Spirit may guide us in fresh ways to be in relationship with those who differ from us.
4. To discern how the Spirit may be calling you to act – to bridge the gap between you and “a neighbor”— to help repair the damage of past actions or inaction.

Our process:

1. Begin with a meditative song, and allow it to inform and direct our spirit.
2. Read & reflect on an *Assertion*
3. Listen to a presentation about the *Assertion*
4. Small Group Reflection and Discussion
5. Large Group Wrap-up
6. Concluding liturgical offering to end each session