



## Leadership, Culture and Community

Leadership, Culture, and Community

Wednesdays 6:30 pm CT by Zoom

Starting Jan 6, 2021

**Join Pastor Christian in an abbreviated version of the course he taught at Carroll University this Fall!**

Many Presbyterian congregations and presbyteries are utilizing the principles of Community Organizing in order to revitalize congregations as well as launch new worshipping communities. The results have been incredible.

*Community organizing is a democratically-governed, values-driven process that catalyzes the power of individuals to work collectively to make the changes they want to see in their communities. Community organizers honor and develop the leadership potential in everyday people by helping them identify problems and solutions, and then by supporting them as they take action to make those solutions a reality. In so doing, organizing challenges the existing power structure.*

*Relationships lie at the heart of organizing, and the “one-to-one” relational conversation between an organizer and a community member is the building block of organizing. As those community members participate in social change work, build skills, and take on responsibilities, they become “leaders” within the organizing group. Developing these leaders and building the “base” of leaders and other community members is an ongoing focus of community organizing.<sup>1</sup>*

In order for community organizing to be effective in its goals as Foster and Louie describe above, which also means for congregations to be vital in the places that God has planted them, one must be able to exegete their personal culture, as well as the culture of the community they seek to work with, and the systems being challenged. This study group will delve into the core concepts, like social constructs and ethnocentrism, that are required to be understood in

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<sup>1</sup> Foster, Catherine Crystal and Justin Louie. Grassroots Action and Learning for Social Change: Evaluating Community Organizing. Center for Evaluation Innovation, 2010. Accessed July 25, 2020. [https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/evaluating\\_community\\_organizing.pdf](https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/evaluating_community_organizing.pdf)

order for the congregation to become a vital Spirit-led and Matthew 25 focused mission. This course will develop the understanding and skills needed to build meaningful relationships essential for leadership today and forming community beyond the church building walls.

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- Jan 6 Orientation
- Jan 13 Ethnography: Know Thy Self
- Jan 20 Culture: To preserve it, we must continue to create it (Huizinga)
- Jan 27 Society: no one is an island
- Feb 3 Community: The Structure of Belonging (2nd Ed) by Peter Block
- Feb 10 Transforming Community: How People Like You Are Healing Their Neighborhoods by Sandhya Rani Jha
- Feb 24 no class

**Books that are available in electronic format and will be the basis for the conversations:**

- John Monaghan and Peter Just. Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Peter Block. Community: The Structure of Belonging (2nd edition). Oakland: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2018.
- Sandhya Rani Jha. Transforming Communities: How People Like You Are Healing Their Neighborhoods. St Louis: Chalice Press, 2017.

**Register in advance:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingRef=7cPI0BS5bBl4aZ&meetingRef=7cPI0BS5bBl4aZ>

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. That information will be the same Zoom meeting code for all the scheduled meetings.**