

# Listening Project

Peace & Conflict  
Spring 2020




**practice discipleship**  
young adults of the de-md synod

# Our Call as Peacemakers

Our 2020 theme is Peace and Conflict. At retreat this year, we explored the ELCA Social Statement *For Peace in God's World* -- created for the church as a "community of moral deliberation."

We are called as disciples to listen to each other, learn from each other, meet each other where we are in accompaniment. And as a critical component of service, our call as peacemakers is to listen to the needs of our communities.

So: our spring/summer service project this year is a **listening** project, from May 2 through June 15, 2020. First, some background...



At retreat, we practiced **nonviolent communication** and **active listening**, negotiation and mediation tactics.

Some of these will come into play as part of our listening service project, so as a quick refresher...



# 4 steps of nonviolent communication

This model helps us articulate our needs in an honest and non-judging way

1. **Observe a situation** without judging: “I see dirty dishes in the sink.”
  2. **Identify the feeling** that you have with regard to the situation: “I feel irritated.”
  3. **Identify your interest** (i.e., concrete need in that situation) that underlies that feeling: “I need more order in the kitchen.”
  4. **Formulate a request:** “Would you be willing to do the dishes?”
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# 4 steps of active listening

This model help us understand each other's interests and needs.

1. **Listen carefully** to what the person is really saying.
  2. **Paraphrase** by saying in your own words what the other person is saying.
  3. **Ask questions** to clarify details if they are important. **Ask** about the other person's needs.
  4. **Summarize** the other person's main points to determine if your interpretation is correct.
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...And at retreat we also started asking some big questions, like:

- What is peace?
- What is conflict?
- What is our role as Church in being peacemakers?

**Jesus** was a big-time questioner...



# Jesus asks us questions

“Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15)

“Why are you afraid?” (Matthew 8:26)

“Why do you doubt?” (Matthew 14:29-31)

“Do you still not see or understand?” (Mark 8:17)

“What does Scripture say?” (Luke 10:23-28)


“Do you understand what I have done for you?” (John 13:12-17)



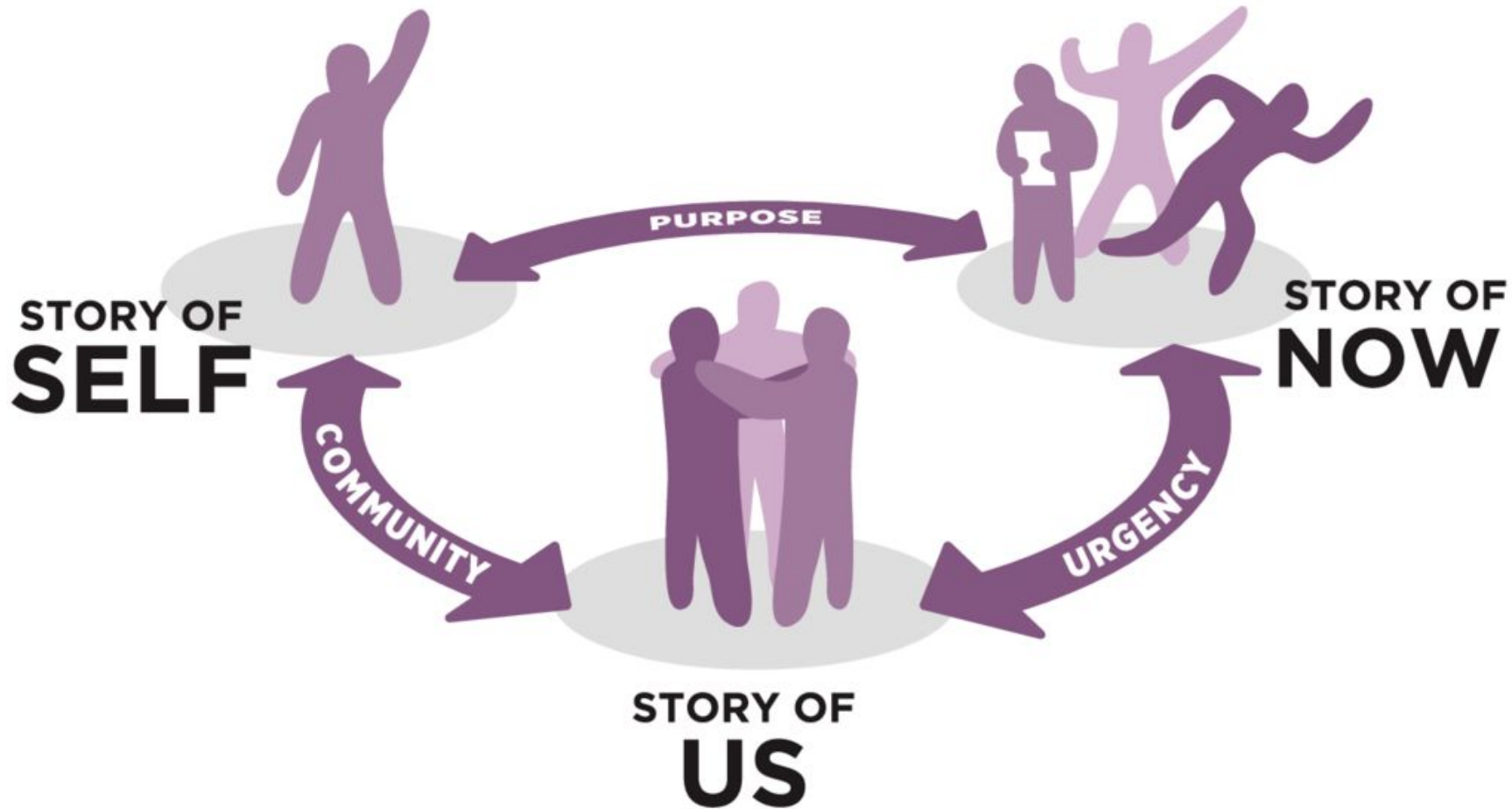
# The Danger of a Single Story

[https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_ngozi\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en)



The background is a solid dark blue. In the top right corner, there are several overlapping geometric shapes in lighter shades of blue, including triangles and squares, creating a modern, abstract design.

Stories are gifts  
and gifts have the power  
to join people together



One to Ones  
One on Ones  
One-One  
1:1

<http://www.newjimcroworganizing.org/img/pdf/One-on-one%20Meetings.pdf>

# Oral Histories

# 8 STEPS TO ORAL HISTORY



"8 Steps" outlines eight main benchmarks to conducting an oral history project, including basic groundwork, interview preparation, background research, and working to ensure community access to oral history resources.

by Dr. Paul Ortiz

## 1 STARTING AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:

1. Decide on Scope, Scale and Themes.
2. Who do you want to interview?
3. What kinds of community groups can you work with?
4. What will be the outcome of your project?
5. Who will have access to your interviews?
6. What are your goals, hopes, etc.?

## 2 PERSONAL AND/OR INSTITUTIONAL MOTIVATIONS

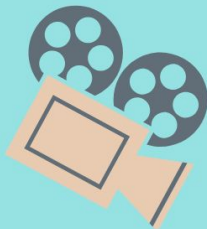
1. Why do you want to do this?
2. Who will actually benefit from your project?
3. Learn to answer, "Why do you want to interview me?"
4. Get it all together so that you can start

## 3 LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

1. Brainstorm about various contacts you can make.
2. Make contacts with community groups.
3. What does this individual or community have to gain?
4. Talk with potential interviewees and others about your project.

## 4 INTERVIEW PREPARATION AND BACKGROUND RESEARCH

1. Background research is Important!
2. Come up with places to go and people to talk to who have the answers.
3. Make a list of questions—what you should ask the interviewee.
4. Schedule and prepare for your interviews.



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## EQUIPMENT YOU ARE GOING TO USE

1. It is important to record the interview (but still bring a notepad to the interview).
2. Video and audio recording can be used in documenting oral history; use digital technology if possible.
3. Selecting equipment is vital to the oral history process— there is a cost associated with cutting corners.
4. Make sure you have plenty of tapes and batteries. These are your **preservation and power!**
5. Practice microphone placement and learn to work with your recorder

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## CONDUCTING THE INTERVIEW!

1. Master your arrival, introduction and setup.
2. Discuss release forms with interviewee.
3. Ask good questions to start out with in order to help stimulate memories.
4. Listen, listen some more, and be flexible!
5. Let interviewee responses help guide you in asking new questions.
6. Take notes about further questions you have.
7. Respect privacy and confidentiality.
8. Show empathy and gratitude.
9. Remember biographical paperwork.

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## THINKING ABOUT THE "FINAL" PROJECT

1. Make transcribing and indexing your interview a priority!
2. Encourage ongoing community involvement in your project by "getting the story straight."
3. Tell this new and wonderful story through different outlets (i.e. public radio, community presentations, articles, exhibits, performance arts, etc.)
4. Receive interviewee input on the final product.

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## PERMANENT ACCESS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

1. Who gets your recordings and why?
2. Good notes and biographical paperwork are essential.
3. Know when a project is truly finished.



Source: <https://www.oralhistory.org/resources/>


“Powerful questions are the ones that cause you to become an actor as soon as you answer them...if you want to change the context, find powerful questions.”

*Peter Block*



We invite the PD community to engage in **intentional conversation** structured and influenced by one-on-one conversations in the model of community organizing and oral histories. They can be short or long; with each other, or with other people in our lives: family members, fellow congregants, friends, colleagues, neighbors...

We hope these conversations will **deepen relationships**, and open up **new topics** around faith, peace and conflict, struggles and values.



# Inspiration for this project...

[StoryCorps: "Why do you like space so much?"](#)



We came up with a [list of questions](#) to get you started.

We absolutely welcome and encourage you to add your own, write your own list entirely, or ad lib!

For those willing, we would love you to record your conversations -- for posterity, for the PD leadership team to identify and share common themes with our group, or to create a mashup video/podcast at the end of the project, documenting listening as a calling of discipleship and peacemaking.

Note: You can get a free Zoom account for unlimited 1:1 call, and can record right in the app. Make sure to get the [release form](#) signed before you start!

With questions, or to submit recordings, please contact [pddemdsynod@gmail.com](mailto:pddemdsynod@gmail.com)

**Listen on!**