



CAMPAIGN PRIMER

WHAT: Launching Jan. 18 (MLK Day), "**From Many, One: Conversations Across Difference**" is a campaign encouraging one-to-one listening and sharing across the many differences that separate us.

WHY: Echoing the Latin phrase on the U.S. seal – E Pluribus (“from many”) Unum (“one”) and the teachings of Jesus, we renew our commitment to forge a diverse, more perfect union. The spiritual practice of conversation across difference can help each of us to ...

1. counter the culture of retribution, demonizing and “othering” with love in action
2. celebrate difference, grow compassion and curiosity, and promote healing
3. bridge divisions in families, communities, nations and forge Beloved Community

HOW: Pairs (or small groups, if appropriate) have intentional conversations around four questions:

- **What do you love?** *What do you value? What would you struggle to protect?* We name and hear what matters most to us and why. It’s harder to argue if we start with love.
 - **What have you lost?** *What has your community lost? What do you miss?* We share about what we’ve lost – jobs, status, national and cultural identity, a sense of security or that you matter – and wonder what each of us is grieving and perhaps trying to get back (if we ever had it at all).
 - **Where does it hurt?** *How have you been wounded by life? What makes you angry? Where do you feel that pain or anger?* We become curious about each other’s hurt, anger, and pain, and learn to hold difficult emotions and stories with compassion.
 - **What do you dream?** *What do you hope for the future: for yourself, your family, your community, your nation?* We hear and share our dreams of a better world, and celebrate what’s similar and what’s different.
1. Talk with someone you know, maybe even agree with. Eventually, the goal is to invite someone you don't agree with or whose life is quite different from yours.
 2. Begin with prayer, introductions, gratitude: whatever creates ease and welcome.
 3. Partner A asks the first question: “What do you love?”, and Partner B answers. The listener (Partner A) may use the different phrasings of each question, if the speaker (Partner B) needs more prompting.
 4. Reverse roles, so Partner B now becomes the listener, and Partner A has the chance to share.
 5. Continue this back and forth with all the questions: “What have you lost?” “Where does it hurt?” “What do you dream?” *If you allow about 3 minutes for each person to share on each question, your conversation should take about 30 minutes.*
 6. Alternatively, you could give Partner B a block of time as the speaker – say, 10-15 minutes – while Partner A focuses on asking each of The Four Questions and listening deeply. Then switch roles and give Partner A the chance to share and Partner B the chance to listen for the same time around the questions.
 7. Pray for your conversation partner afterward and grow the Beloved Community

WHERE, WHO & WHEN:

- Have conversations over Zoom, over coffee, or at the dinner table – they work in any intentional setting.
- Ideally, meet in pairs for a one-to-one. If you wish you could also gather a small group.
- Set up conversations with family, friends, church members, colleagues
- Decide on a time and share equally – from 15 minutes (~ 7 minutes each) to 1 hour (~ 30 minutes each).

HELP: Go to www.episcopalchurch.org/FromManyOne

- Comprehensive guide and videos (new ones every other week) modeling conversations across difference
- Campaign sign-up process
- Resources and prayers for conversations across difference
- Links to partner efforts like [Braver Angels](#), [Civil Discourse](#), [Beloved Community StorySharing](#), and more