

**“LEARNINGS AND GLEANINGS”
ANNUAL GATHERING 2018 PLENARY SESSION 2
Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Trinetta McCray
Equipping for Mission – Ready to Act**

ROUND ONE:

What? What happened (in the breakout sessions)? What facts or observations stood out?

- ~ Importance of Collaboration.
- ~ Discovered just how little we know about mental illness.
- ~ Child poverty affects everyone ... important to reach children early.
- ~ How to reach folks who struggle with mental health issues?
- ~ Collaboration is not building friendships. Collaboration is working together regardless of differences.
- ~ Ways to cooperate with Police department in making Milwaukee a better place – there’s risk involved.
- ~ Change the stigma of mental health.
- ~ Manage through trust, not control.
- ~ In any of our missions, sharing stories, consistency, and listening are the key.
- ~ You need to have participation from outside of the church.
- ~ You must have a person of trust.
- ~ Child hunger is rampant in Wisconsin. We need to come together with both faith-based community and secular agencies.

ROUND TWO:

So, what? Why is that important? What patterns or conclusions are emerging?

- ~ Collaboration leads to understanding each other and building from there to meet the needs of the social cause.
- ~ People are being marginalized within the church because we don’t fully understand mental illness.
- ~ How can we make lives of those with mental illness better?

- ~ To treat people with mental illness differently, we're not being true to the gospel.
- ~ Police show interest to connect with church leaders.
- ~ Reach out; get involved; know our police and pray. They are there to provide hope.
- ~ Focus on the mission rather than the organization.
- ~ Work with other churches who have active ministries.
- ~ Only with relationships can you move forward with truly helping people in need.
Assume that God will lead us to more opportunities.
- ~ They come => they see => they eat => they participate => they share.
- ~ Churches and faith based communities can be a preventative solution – possible light houses – and work for restorative justice. One contribution that can be given back to the police.

ROUND THREE:

Now, what? What actions make sense? Who do we need?

- ~ Become involved/be partners without thinking we know it all.
- ~ Tap into the resources that already exist.
- ~ Invite those who need the service to the table.
- ~ Recognize the value in the “other.”
- ~ Churches to be “safe havens.”
- ~ Principles of collaboration – help people realize that all have “star potential.”
- ~ We need to admit we're falling short meeting needs of mentally ill and be more welcoming.
- ~ The collaboration with church leaders needs safe environment and at least one contact in the community to go to, who will serve as contact with the police department.
- ~ Know resources and groups you can connect to help.
- ~ Contact police in the local areas to offer support, prayer. Ask them what we can do ... and do it.
- ~ Know programs: crisis and addiction centers tied to hospitals.

- ~ Call local police to see how we can help and what they need.
- ~ Forget about differences to make the needed change.
- ~ Build relationships to help mentor each other, whether it's for spiritual needs or networking needs.
- ~ Need to continue to investigate and include folks from the community to keep addressing child poverty.
- ~ Quality vs. quantity of work.
- ~ Speak the hope you see.