

THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD PRESENTS

# RENEW!

## RESOURCES

- "The Art of Focused Conversation: 100 ways to Access Group Wisdom in the Workplace" by R. Brian Stanfield
- ToP Facilitation Methods training course through the Minnesota Technology of Participation, [www.mntop.us](http://www.mntop.us). Participants work individually and in small groups to see the ToP Methods in action, and then have the opportunity to practice facilitating in class.
- Invite a facilitator into your context to host a conversation. Two people you can immediately work with are: Rev. Eva Jensen ([evajensen101@gmail.com](mailto:evajensen101@gmail.com)) & Rev. Peter Soli ([pjsoli@gmail.com](mailto:pjsoli@gmail.com))
- See the expanded resources list on our website at: [www.semnsynod.org/archive](http://www.semnsynod.org/archive)
- Contact Mary Kay DuChene in the Office of the Bishop if you're interested in becoming trained to be a facilitator that could go into church communities to host focused conversations.

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## PURPOSE

Our purpose is to talk about what would encourage us to engage in conversations about challenging issues where disagreement exists among us.

## GOALS

- To develop a shared understanding of perspectives & experiences related to having challenging conversations in our congregations, communities and personal lives
- To gain insight into difficult conversations and ways to move forward in significant conversation with one another.

## SHARED COMMITMENTS

- Commit to confidentiality: what's said in the group stays in the group
- Assume positive intentions
- Treat each other with dignity and respect
- Be genuine with each other and constructive in offering ideas, perspectives and feelings
- Listen attentively to seek understanding, not necessarily agreement
- It is everyone's responsibility to be sure no one person dominates the conversation and that every person who wishes has a chance to speak
- Stay with the questions
- Speak for yourself, not someone else
- Agree not to cross talk or start side conversations
- Recognize you are part of something larger
- Commit to the whole, not just your piece



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