

What if We Could Talk About Anything: Hope for Meaningful Conversation in a Divided World



At a glance...

Is there hope for coming together in our increasingly divided world? This workshop will focus on how to develop practices for engaging people across various kinds of divides. Several circle formats will be presented from the field of restorative practices, which have a proven track record of use in many different contexts to cultivate curiosity, build empathy and promote meaningful conversation across issues that divide us. The workshop will be interactive, with opportunity to practice what we are learning.

Objectives

1. Participants in this workshop will be able to discuss the interconnectedness of humanity and how meaningful conversation is an important part of living into that reality.
2. Participants in this workshop will be able to name three key practices identified by Jim Henderson and Jim Hancock for crossing differences.
3. Participants will gain a working knowledge of how circles might be used in various contexts.

Speaker

With an undergraduate degree in Psychology, **Bonnie Nicholas** went back to school, earning a Master's degree in Social Work in 2003 from Michigan State University. In 2020, she retired from her position as Director of Safe Church Ministry for the Christian Reformed Church in N. America, which included helping regional teams across the U.S. and Canada address abuse awareness, prevention and response within a church setting. In addition, she has studied at the International Institute of Restorative Practices, located in Bethlehem, PA earning her Graduate Certification in 2021. And she received training and certification as a 3Practice Circle leader in 2022. She lives with her husband, Jim, in Shelby, MI on 22 acres of woods, which she enjoys in all seasons.



Friday, October 27, 2023
9:00am - 12:00pm

Cost
\$49



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Grand Valley State University School of Social Work, an accredited social work education program, is authorized by Administrative Rule 338.2965 to award Michigan social work continuing education contact hours.



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