

Annual Retreat – Intentional Interim Ministers
Recruiting Storytelling as a Process of Moral Development
Proposed delivery on May 11 and 12, 2020

Objectives

- Examine the psychological impact of story
- Practice finding and developing a compelling personal story
- Strengthen impact of moral emotions on behavior
- Learn six kinds of stories that enhance communication
- Learn six principles that keep stories interesting and relevant
- Build skills and repertoire to recruit storytelling as a group process to rehearse moral reasoning, de-escalate divisions, deepen communication, and increase tolerance and understanding

DAY ONE – Afternoon Session

What is Story? Simulation of a Significant Emotional Experience

(see + smell + taste + touch + hear)

Six Kinds of Stories: Who, Why, Teaching, Values-in-Action, Vision, “I know”

Developing Perceptual Agility to SEE stories

Accurate Meaningful

Facts Emotions

Data Experiential learning

Objective Analysis Internalizing Principles

Why is Story?

Mental rehearsal of moral decisions and emotional payoffs (meaning)

Strengthens faith that life is meaningful

Builds strategies for creating meaning as a part of daily action

Story Practice: Who are you?/Why are you here?

List Personal Qualities (“I am trustworthy...empathetic... faithful, etc.”)

Find a NEW story from one of the Four Buckets:

Shined

Blew it

Mentor

Book/Movie

Practice Your Story: Three minute stories in two person partner groups.

Growing a baby story into a great story

Who/Why Stories told by “volunteers”

Annette models Appreciations Process

- “What I like about your story is...
- “What your story tells me about you is....
- “The difference hearing your story might make to our working relationship is...
- “I can see you using this story when (client situation) in order to (impact)...

Six Principles of Storytelling

1. Storytelling is Developmental
2. Story Language uses all channels of communication

3. Intention – The Most Important Thing (M.I.T.)
4. Be Vivid! Images need sensory detail for the mind to grab hold.
5. Participation vs. Control – Inverse Relationship
6. Who is the beneficiary?

Evening Session: Storytelling Concert

Listen to three-minute stories developed in morning session
Group offers appreciations on craft, message, impact, etc.
Relax and enjoy stories as a listener

DAY TWO – Morning Session

Introducing storytelling to your congregation

Forces against: fear of vulnerability, diminished sensory orientation, lack of practice, unrealistic expectations

Forces for: loneliness, hunger for meaning, curiosity, desire for connection and understanding

When, where, and how to introduce storytelling

Status Reports, Studying Principles Applied, Bonding Rituals, Self-diagnostic process, Storytelling Show
Programs, Annual Retreats