

# ENGAGING FAITH COMMUNITIES IN THE FIGHT FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

---

PRESENTER: REV. DR. DIETRA WISE BAKER (MCU ST. LOUIS)

FACILITATOR: TIFFANY WILLIAMS

## OVERVIEW

---

1

Why Engage Faith Communities

2

Why Use Sacred Texts and Narratives

3

How To Engage Faith Communities

4

Action Plan a Campaign  
#Faith4YouthJustice



## WHY ENGAGE FAITH COMMUNITIES

---

Spiritual resources:  
prayer, pastoral care,  
a greater power

A source of untapped  
resources: people,  
buildings, gifts

Can provide common  
moral narratives in  
campaigns

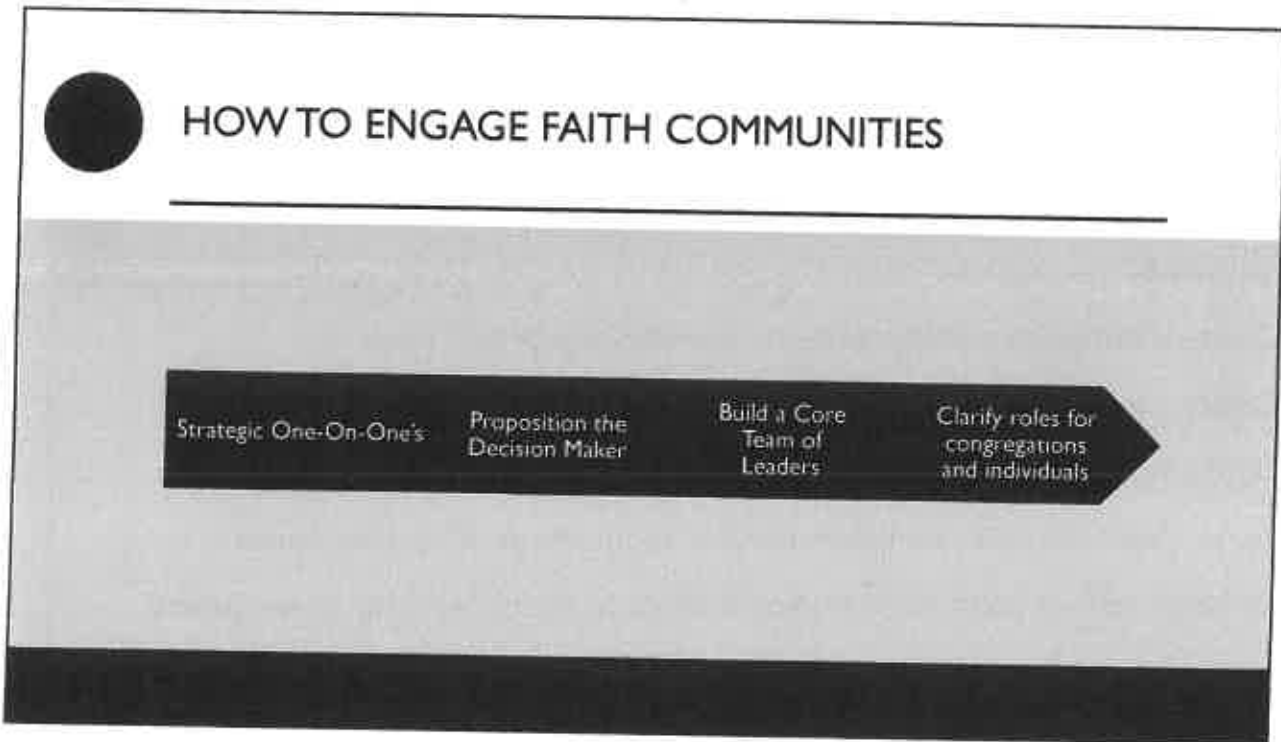
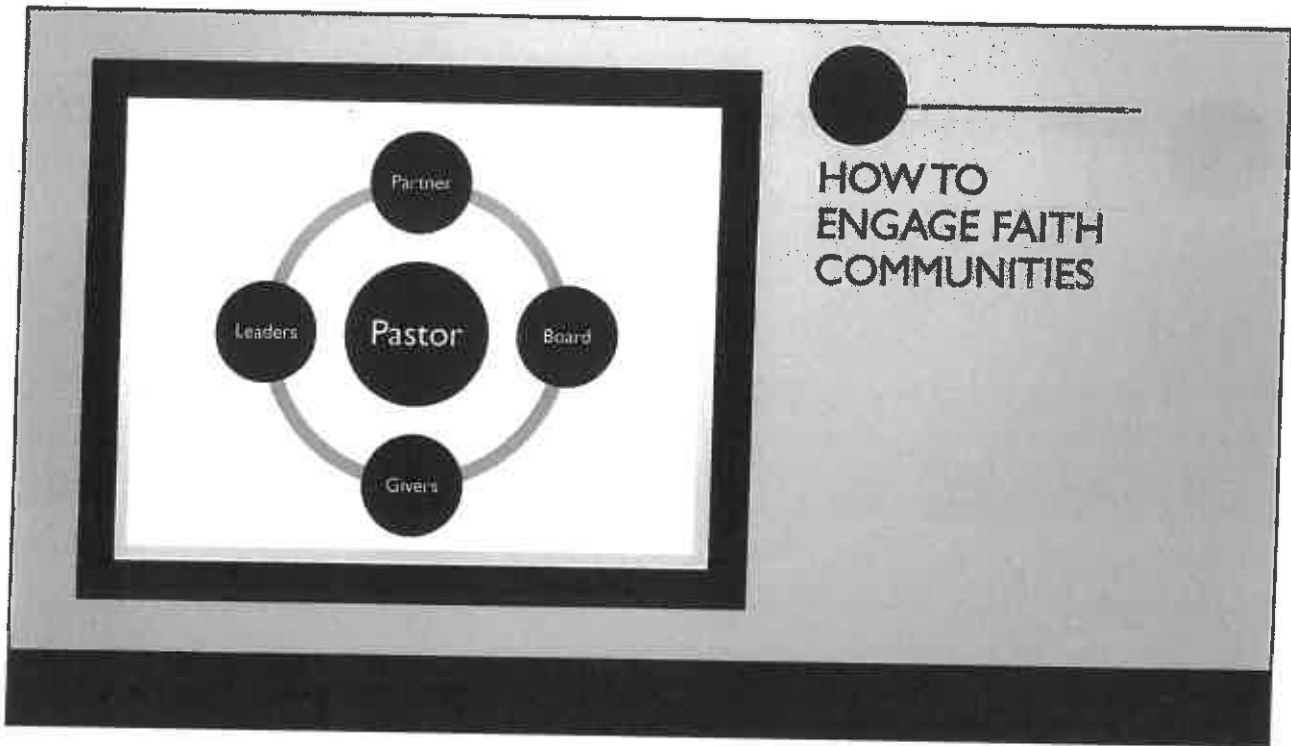
Contains a prophetic  
tradition, community  
rituals, and symbols



## WHY USE SACRED TEXTS AND NARRATIVES

---

- The voice of God often comes from the streets, from the oppressed and marginalized
- Holds people of faith accountable
- Provides an alternative source of strength for the struggle
- Spiritual roots historically served as a form of resistance
- Affected families also connect with faith messages





## HOW TO ENGAGE FAITH COMMUNITIES

---



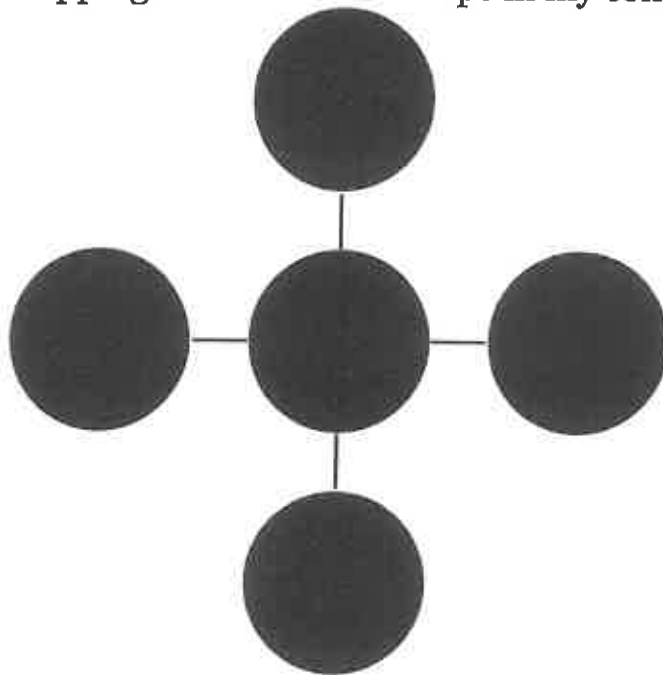
- Create a campaign toolkit: sermons, worship, and prayer plans
- Create a weekend or “Youth Justice Day”
- Hold a Forum on Youth Justice with Faith Leaders
- Plan a “Teach-In” educating faith leaders about the youth justice issues
- Dedicate staff to build relationships & invest in faith leadership development



Engaging Faith Communities in the Fight for Youth Justice  
July 18, 2017  
Room 515

**EXERCISE:** What sacred texts, scriptures, stories align with our message?

**EXERCISE:** Mapping Power Relationships in my community



Who are the faith leaders working on justice issues?  
Who are the faith leaders with power and influence?  
Who are the faith leaders with resources?  
How can you get to them, who are your connectors?

## **EXERCISE: One-to-One Conversations**

A **one-on-one** is a conversation with another person that has one agenda/purpose, getting to know the other person. It consist of asking a series of open ended questions that allows the other person to describe what is important to them. The one doing the one-one-on is listening.

Four Objectives we want to get out of a one-on-one:

1. Initiate and Establish a Public Relationship
2. Understand the other's person's self-interest
3. Give the other person a chance to gain clarity
4. Information

Some Basics:

Ask for the conversation

Usually not more than 30 minutes

More Listening than talking (80/20 rule)

Say Thank you

After the conversation make notes

Be courageous and curious not chit chat or surface conversation

My Top Five People of Faith to schedule One-On-One's:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**EXERCISE: Draft your #Faith4YouthJustice Campaign**

Using one of the ideas listed outline a basic plan with a small group

Include an objective, a goal, and a timeline

What is your next step