Convention 2021 Live Remote Workshop Information

The following presents a preliminary listing of live remote workshop presentations that will be included in NACSW’s Convention 2021 with abstracts, learning objectives, and presenters’ bios. The workshop sessions are sorted alphabetically by presenters’ last names.

Please note that views expressed by workshop presenters are entirely their own and do not necessarily reflect those of NACSW. Being selected to present a workshop at this convention in no way implies NACSW’s endorsement or certification of a presenters’ qualifications, ability, or proficiency to practice social work or integrate faith and social work.

Workshop Title: Grief and Loss: Shedding Light On Our Youth

Workshop Presenters: Kiana Battle, MSW, PhD, LMSW

Workshop Abstract: This presentation will expose the hidden impact that grief and loss have on youth, such as at-risk behaviors, trauma, mental health issues, issues of low self-concept, and many more. The presentation will also provide participants with best practice interventions for supporting youth who are impacted by grief and loss, such as group counseling.

Learning Objectives: As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- identify key components of a trauma-informed approach.
- identify key elements, in constructing grief counseling groups.
• gain new insight on supportive resources for adolescents and youth impacted by grief and loss.

Level of Presentation: Intermediate

Target Audience: Social Workers, Church Leaders, Educators

Workshop Description: This presentation will expose the hidden impact that grief and loss have on youth, such as at-risk behaviors, trauma, mental health issues, issues of low self-concept, and many more. The presentation will also provide participants with best practice interventions for supporting youth who are impacted by grief and loss, such as group counseling, youth development and other sources. As a Christian, I will incorporate the importance of using faith to support youth impacted by grief and loss. Research evidence is provided in the presentation.

Summary: Recognizing the impact that loss has on adolescents, it is critical that adolescents be provided with interventions that can help them appropriately cope with their grief. Although counseling resources are often available for adults, fewer resources are available for grieving adolescents, who often must grieve alone or with limited support (Slyter, 2012). Grief counseling groups are positive interventions that can assist adolescents in developing healthier coping skills. These skills can empower them to process their grief in a positive way. Groups can provide an environment that promotes resilience which acts as a protective factor against the physical, emotional, social, and cognitive grief responses of adolescents. School social workers should be encouraged to address the needs of this population and provide meaningful and effective interventions that can buffer the effects of grief for adolescents. Providing grief group counseling programs and other strength-based programs for adolescents within the context of the school setting may help adolescents to engage in more positive behaviors. The death of a parent can affect children's self-esteem and can be associated with more behavior problems, high levels of anxiety, social withdrawal, and lower sense of self-efficacy (Worden, 1996). Evidence: The practice of group counseling is an intervention model used in the social work profession. In social work, the therapeutic benefit of group membership is conceptualized as stemming from mutual aid (Gitterman, 2004; Schwartz 1974; Shulman, 2008). However, the use of group counseling interventions is often underutilized. This is despite the fact that available research suggests that group participation may be particularly helpful in reducing social isolation and assisting bereaved individuals in moving through the bereavement process more quickly (Forte, Hill, Pazder, & Feudtner, 2004; Piper, Orgodniczuk, Joyce, & Weidman, 2011; Piper, Orgodiczuk, Joyce, Weidman & Rosie, 2007). Recognizing the possible issues associated with adolescents and grief, it is important to note the positive impact that group counseling can have on this population. According to Malekoff, those who feel connected are less likely to engage in high-risk behavior (Malekoff, 2004).

Bibliography: Dr. Kiana Battle is a licensed Master Social Worker She received a Ph.D. in Social Work Policy Planning and Administration from Clark Atlanta University. She also received a B.A degree in Sociology and MSW degree in Social Welfare from the
State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Battle is the owner of Dr. Kiana Battle, LMSW, LLC Professional Social Work Consultant (kbattleconsulting.com); she also serves as an Assistant Professor of Social Work. Dr. Battle is the co-author of Real Girls: Shifting Perceptions on Identity, Relationships, and the Media (2010) and Real Girls Reflections (2011). She is also the co-author of Grief Why Me? Why Not Me: A Journey of Self-Discovery (2015). Dr. Battle utilizes a strength-based and client-centered approach for all services, and she strives “to meet clients where they are”. Dr. Battle also serves alongside her husband in ministry.

**Presenter Bio(s):** Dr. Kiana Battle is a licensed Master Social Worker. She received a Ph.D. in Social Work Policy Planning and Administration from Clark Atlanta University. She also received a B.A degree in Sociology and an MSW degree in Social Welfare from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Battle is the owner of Dr. Kiana Battle, LMSW, LLC Professional Social Work Consultant (kbattleconsulting.com). She also serves as an Assistant Professor of Social Work. Dr. Battle is the co-author of Real Girls: Shifting Perceptions on Identity, Relationships, and the Media (2010) and Real Girls Reflections (2011). She is also the co-author of Grief Why Me? Why Not Me: A Journey of Self-Discovery (2015). Dr. Battle utilizes a strength-based and client-centered approach for all services, and she strives "to meet clients where they are". Dr. Battle also serves alongside her husband in ministry.

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**Workshop Title:** Healing Racial Divides in Communities of Faith

**Workshop Presenters:** Lyndal Bedford, MSW  Rebecca Coleman DSW, MSW, LCSW

**Workshop Abstract:** This session reviews the assumptions of Critical Race Theory (CRT) and offers a multidimensional CRT framework for empowering communities to integrate their racial, ethnic, and faith identities. Empowerment approaches include relationship building through respectful dialogue and development of mutual relationships.

**Learning Objectives:** As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- 1. Articulate the underlying assumptions related to Critical Race Theory (CRT)
- 2. Explain how the multidimensional CRT model provides for the integration of social identities
- 3. Apply empowerment strategies to communities of faith in order to promote healing of racial divisions with a special emphasis on community reconciliation

**Level of Presentation:** Intermediate

**Target Audience:** Social Workers, Church Leaders, General Audience
**Workshop Description:** I. Articulate the underlying assumptions related to Critical Race Theory (CRT) (brief lecture - 5 minutes)
II. Explain how the multidimensional CRT model provides for the integration of social identities (brief lecture - 5 minutes)
III. Assess empowerment strategies for increasing dialogue and building mutual relationships within communities of faith (interactive presentation with discussion - 20 minutes)
IV. Formulate empowerment approaches for communities of faith seeking healing of racial division with a special emphasis on community reconciliation (small group participation - 20 minutes)
V. Questions and answers (10 minutes)

*Faith Component Informed by Relevant Social Work Literature*

Critical Race Theory (CRT) promotes the social construction of racial identity based on oneself and social memberships (ASHE Higher Education Report, 2015). Digger (2014) advocates for the use of CRT to increase racial awareness in higher education while Perry & Whitehead (2019) propose a cultural competency training for college campuses. Their models use a CRT framework, specifically a critical conscious lens, for educating instructors and creating antiracist environments. In order to do so, they recommend facilitating meaningful discussions about race and oppression in higher education institutions. Historically, CRT focuses on the social construction of race. However, our current socio-political culture challenges our faith communities to consider our biases on racial identities. Dowland (2018) more pointedly suggests the racial bias of our church denominations are part of the politics of whiteness. Therefore, our current societal discourse begs the question about how social work students of color develop an integrated faith and racial identity. Fears (2019) promotes the use of CRT for spiritual formation with people of color. In support of Fears proposition is the underlying assumption of CRT related to the intersectionality of social identities (Johnston"Guerrero, 2016). One promising approach is the Critical Race Theory Model of Multiple Dimensions of Identity (CRT-MMDI; Abes, Jones, & Stewart, 2019). This model applies the intersectionality of social identities to the development of college students. In practical terms, the development of faith and racial identity for students of color is best when they share their stories (Friere, 1970). In CRT, this technique allows the students to share life experiences even if they offer a counternarrative (ASHE Higher Education Report, 2015). This presentation reviews the assumptions of CRT, introduces the CRT-MMDI framework, and proposes a similar CRT model using empowerment approaches for faith communities. The focus is on using the CRT model to heal racial divisions within faith communities. Not only is this our professional responsibility but a call from God to love all people.


**Presenter Bio (s):** Lyndal is an MSW post-graduate student at Southeastern University. He graduated with a sociology degree from Columbus State University in 2017 and received his ministerial credentials under the Assemblies of God denomination as a licensed minister. His scholarly interests are in mental health, grief/bereavement counseling, ministerial outreach, and community development work.

Dr. Coleman earned her DSW from the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota. She graduated from Indiana University with a BS, Music Therapy, in 1982 and a MSW in 1989. Her research interests are in interprofessional education, mutual aid groups, and social policy. Her clinical practice specialized in working with children, women, and families experiencing trauma. Her social work education experience includes work as the BSW Program Director at the University of Saint Francis, Indiana, and MSW Program Director at Southeastern University, Florida. She currently teaches with the online MSW Program at Campbellsville University, Kentucky

**Workshop Title:** The Role of Faith in Meeting Across Difference in an Age of Polarization

**Workshop Presenters:** Morgan Braganza, PhD and Monica Chi MSW

**Workshop Abstract:** Polarization can cause social work educators, practitioners, and students to separate along lines of difference. This workshop will draw upon two novel frameworks, the faith-inspired praxis of love and the hospitality framework, to provide social workers with a Christian approach for avoiding polarization and better loving their neighbours.

**Learning Objectives:** As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe the faith-inspired praxis of love and hospitality frameworks.
- Describe strategies applicable for social work practice and education for avoiding polarization.
- Describe the place and contribution of Christianity for creating a more unified society.

**Level of Presentation:** Basic, Intermediate

**Target Audience:** Social Workers, Educators, Students
Workshop Description: Over the last century, Canadian society has become increasingly diverse. Differences due to ethnicity, language, sexuality and religion have increased (Statistics Canada 2013, 2015, 2016), yet Canadians regularly separate themselves along lines of difference. Canada is marked by its ideals of pluralism, social inclusion, and civic cohesion, but national news and empirical research shows that people are behaving toward "Others" with suspicion, polarization, and even tribalism (Braganza, 2020; English, 2019; "Five youths arrested," 2020; Shum, 2016; Stephan & Stephan, 2016). Historical anecdotes and research also shows that while many want to live side by side, they experience difficulty realizing this aspiration (Dessel & Rogge, 2008; Eger, 2017; Folger et al., 2013). This is true even of Christian social work professionals (e.g., educators, practitioners) and students (Braganza, 2020). During this workshop, the facilitators will draw from two novel frameworks, the faith-inspired praxis of love (Chi, 2018, Chi, 2020a; Chi, 2020b) an d the hospitality framework (Braganza, 2018), to discuss the role that faith can play in informing Christian social work professionals and students how to better love their neighbours in their practice. During the first part of the workshop, the presenters will introduce the faith-inspired praxis of love and hospitality frameworks. In the second part of the workshop, examples will be offered of how people of faith are living out the call to love their neighbours through relationships and communities. Throughout the presentation, audience members will be asked to interact with the presented material by reflecting on discussion questions such as: Given the challenges of meeting across differences, how can the insights from the faith-inspired praxis of love and hospitality frameworks be used to support social workers in better meeting their neighbours? What implications do you see the frameworks having in your areas of practice and scholarship? How can our Christian faith inspire us to live in a way that helps love be a way of life? How can we embrace the Other while holding on to what is important to us? What is the role of Christianity in today's society, which is marked by polarization? In developing a new approach to creating a more unified society, it is worth considering the place and contribution of Christianity. This workshop will contribute to these aims by offering social work professionals and students pragmatic strategies and considerations for loving their neighbours while celebrating difference in an age of polarization.


**Presenter Bio (s):** Morgan E. Braganza is an Assistant Professor in the Social Work Bachelor of Arts degree program within the Department of Applied Social Sciences at Redeemer University in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada. She earned her PhD from Wilfrid
Laurier University's Faculty of Social Work in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada in 2020. She earned her MSW from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2009. Her program of research focuses on encountering persons who hold contentious differences. She has several published and forthcoming articles on integrating faith in social work education and practice. She has led research and program evaluation projects covering topics such as collaboration, poverty, and violence against women.

Monica Chi is a Professor in the School of Social and Community Services at George Brown College in Toronto. She is also a PhD Candidate in Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University. Through her thesis, she developed the faith-inspired praxis of love framework which articulates the motivation of those inspired by their faith to engage in helping and caring work. Her research interests include refining the faith-inspired praxis of love framework through case studies involving contemporary sites of practice.

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**Workshop Title:** Jesus and Dissociation

**Workshop Presenters:** Paul Felker, PhD

**Workshop Abstract:** Dissociation is an innate, God-breathed capacity in all people. Dissociation is a tuning out of external stimuli. Dissociation can be used as a lens to interpret the somewhat challenging verse in Matthew 15:23 when the Canaanite woman asked Jesus to heal her daughter and it says "Jesus did not answer her a word." Dissociation enhances relationships

**Learning Objectives:** As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Overview the research literature on dissociation and augment it with a strengths-based perspective.
2. Examine the intersection of the research on dissociation and the Christian faith.
3. Describe the application to direct, clinical work with people, with a particular focus on relationship building.

**Level of Presentation:** Basic, Intermediate

**Target Audience:** Social Workers, Church Leaders, Educators

**Workshop Description:** Originating in a concern that pathologizing views of dissociation may stymie attention to the adaptive functions that dissociation can serve, Dr. Felker's research explored the associations between adverse events, relational health events, and dissociative tendencies in youth. Following a multi-stage quantitative analysis of a global clinical sample of 638 youth (ages 11-18), Dr. Felker found that the strongest predictor of a youth's place on a dissociative symptom severity continuum was a score on
a scale combining adverse and relational health event factors. Lower degrees of adversity across a higher number of adverse events, and lower degrees of relational health across a lower number of relationship health events together were associated with lower (i.e., less problematic) dissociative continuum scores. This research is noteworthy for its use of a data set comprising clinician-generated ratings of youth in clinical treatment settings. The findings provide support for Dr. Bruce Perry's (2006) claim that "states make traits," that is, that conditions and circumstances encountered in early stages of development influence attributes, or traits, demonstrated in subsequent stages. This research may be helpful in understanding the biblical verse in Mark 9:42 which states "And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck." This verse can be seen as harsh yet when we understand child development, the impact of early life experiences, and the resulting patterned behavior, the warning makes sense as a reasonable caution. A core competency in social work is practice-informed research and research informed practice (EPAS, 2015). This workshop will examine Dr. Felker's research and its intersection with scripture. Practical applications will be made for the clergy, laity, and professional social workers who work with people, with particular attention paid to dissociation and its capacity to build relationships. Relationships are the central vehicle through which change occurs, therefore this research can serve to enhance relationship building.


**Presenter Bio(s):** Paul Felker - Assistant Professor of Social Work - PhD, Widener University, Chester, PA 2017 - I have presented at many conferences and led many CEU seminars. I have 30 years of practice as a clinician and educator.

**Workshop Title:** Family Therapy for Those Caring for Veterans Diagnosed With PTSD

**Workshop Presenters:** Rhonda Hudson, PhD, LCSW

**Workshop Abstract:** Veterans diagnosed with PTSD have been well discussed in research literature, but family members who care for them have not. This presentation will include the successful use of an evidenced-based family therapy model to assist a 33-year old client and family in having more consistent services for client, and overall better functioning for family.

**Learning Objectives:** As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the mental health needs of Veterans who are diagnosed with PTSD, and challenges in reemploying them to reside with family to care for them
- Understand that family members who care for Veterans need assistance, also, and learn an evidence-based family theoretical model to use.
- Understand how God loves even those who don't know/acknowledge Him, and uses His Children as vessels to provide His love, compassion and excellent service to all.

**Level of Presentation:** Intermediate, Advanced

**Target Audience:** Social Workers, Church Leaders, Educators, Student

**Workshop Description:** Client is a 33-year-old who has a diagnosis of PTSD and depression. He is a recent transplant to TN from VA, and was seeking both med management and therapy from the agency. In the middle of session, the call dropped, and I was not able to reconnect. After many failed attempts, I called the emergency contact number, and his sister answered. I heard the anxiety in her voice, and after assuring that
her brother, my client, was okay, I asked the sister if she was okay. She became tearful, and therapist spent time listening as she spoke of her experiences caring for her brother. The conversation introduced me to this in research. (Case Study; 10-15 minutes)

Veterans usually receive medicinal management from the Veterans facility near the community where the client lives. In this client's case, he had been released from receiving his medications at the local VA center. Freytes, LeLaurin, Zickmund, Resende, & Uphold, (2017) discuss that this process is provided for the benefit for both the client and client's family as the VA center may be several miles away from where family lives. However, as Shepherd-Banigan, Smith, Maciejewski, Stechuchak, Hastings, Wieland, Miller, Kabat, Henius, Campbell-Kotler, & Van Houtven, (2018) discuss, families receive little training for the care of veterans who have diagnoses of PTSD, depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders. Smith, Taverna, Fox, Schnurr, Matteo, & Vogt, (2017) report on the challenges faced by families and clients, as severity of symptomatology may not be accurately reported, and this presents challenges in linking veterans to mental health services in community mental health facilities. When linkages to mental health centers are successful, Or Duek, Pietrzak, Petrakis, Hoff, & Harpaz-Rotem, (2021) report on the continuation of consistent medicinal service and therapy for Veterans with PTSD. Laws, Glynn, McCutcheon, Schmitz, & Hoff, (2018) discuss how veterans' symptoms change when families do become involved in the treatment plan of the veteran, as they assist in assisting the client in becoming compliant with treatment. One evidence-based treatment that is used in therapy is Internal Family Systems Theory (Lucero, Jones, & Hunsaker, 2018). (Research; 20-25 minutes) After researching, I was convinced that God had led me to work with this family. Client had previously identified that he is agnostic; however, here was an opportunity to offer compassionate care, as I realized that the client is loved by a loving God, and I could be used as a vessel of his love. Client's sister was contacted again, with an invitation for her, client and family to meet together for Zoom sessions. The successful utilization of med management and family therapy with this client and family will be discussed in this presentation. (Faith component and Discussion; 25-30 minutes)


**Presenter Bio (s):** My name is Rhonda, Hudson, PhD, LCSW, and I currently serve as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Pathways Behavioral Health Services, an affiliate of West TN Healthcare, in Jackson, TN. I received my Master's degree (1998) and PhD degree (2006) from Barry University, Miami Shores, FL. I have previously served as Professor of Social Work at Union University, where I first learned of NACSW, and have enjoyed the privilege and honor of being a presenter at the conference for more than 10 years.

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**Workshop Title:** The Impacts of Climate Change on Low-Income and Marginalized Communities

**Workshop Presenter:** Michelle LeVere, MSW, LICSW

**Workshop Abstract:** Climate change adversely impacts poor and marginalized communities, making them most likely to suffer the greatest loss and have the least ability to recover, a result of long-standing inequalities. This workshop will examine the intersection of race, class and climate change and identify strategies for addressing this urgent and complex issue.

**Learning Objectives:** Recognize the intersection of race, class, gender and the environment. Recognize how low-income and marginalized communities are impacted by climate change. Identify strategies for addressing the impacts of climate change on low-income and marginalized communities

**Level of Presentation:** Basic, Intermediate, Advanced

**Target Audience:** Social Workers, Church Leaders, Educators, Student

**Workshop Description:** The US is experiencing record numbers of heat waves, increased or decreased precipitation, floods, droughts, fires and other extreme weather
events. The impacts can be mild to severe, however not every community experience them in the same way. Inequities in health, education, criminal justice, housing and the environment are interrelated with racism and socio-economic status. This workshop will draw on the Biblical premise that we are to be stewards over each and the earth. That in order to feed, clothe and break chains of oppression, the environment has to be included. Humans relationship with the earth is interrelated. When the earth is suffering, so are we. Care of the planet is essential to human survival. One cannot provide food if the earth is not producing or poorly producing. Breaking chains of oppression includes identifying who has access to resources and how and to whom they are distributed. Social work's central goal is to enhance well-being on micro, mezzo and macro levels, and thereby society as a whole. The ecological perspective will be the theoretical lens in which this topic is presented. A brief outline of the presentation: A brief history of how structural racism and class creates systems of inequity (Christian role and response will also be discussed) How climate change is affecting low-income and marginalized communities Social work's role, and specifically Christian social work's role, in responding to the issue Micro, mezzo and macro level strategies for addressing the issue will also be explored.

**Bibliography:**


**Presenter Bio:** Michelle LeVere, MSW, LICSW is a Clinical Instructor and Director of Field Education in the Social Work Program at the University of the District of Columbia. She has extensive experience in clinical social work with youth, adults and families who presented with substance use, mental health and socio-emotional issues. She has served in community mental health centers, schools and child welfare organizations. She also brings years of experience in program management and training and professional development. She holds certificates in school social work, trauma recovery, Psychological First Aid, Flawless Consulting 1, and Climate Change and Human Health from Yale Public Health. Michelle has been recognized as a master trainer and designs and delivers outstanding trainings for social workers and other professionals with a focus on child welfare, mental health, clinical supervision, trauma.

**Workshop Title:** Building Bridges Between Faith & Mental Health Treatment Communities
Workshop Presenters: Tracie Pogue, MDIV, STM, MSW, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: This is a report out of a September, 2018, expert panel meeting held by SAMHSA in partnership with HHS/The Partnership Center - Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives. The meeting focused on engaging faith leaders in the care of people with serious mental illness in partnership with the mental health treatment community.

Learning Objectives: As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify Effective Models to Educate & Engage Faith Leaders in the Care of People with Serious Mental Illness (SMI).
- Identify Challenges to Building Bridges Between the Treatment Community and the Faith-Based Community in the Care of People with Serious Mental Illness.
- Identify the Role of the Faith Communities in Respect to Caregivers and those Impacted by Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

Level of Presentation: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced

Target Audience: Social Workers, Church Leaders, Educators, Student

Workshop Description: In September, 2018, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - The Partnership Center/Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives held an expert panel meeting entitled "The Role of the Faith-Based Community as Bridge Builders to the Treatment Community for People with Serious Mental Illness (SMI)." Participants included those experiencing serious mental illness, families of people with serious mental illness, pastors, professors and faith-based counselors. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a compendium of best practice models and resources to address challenges to building relationships between the treatment community and the faith-based community. Meeting objectives included: 1) Identify effective models to educate and engage faith leaders in the care of people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI); 2) Identify challenges to building bridges between the treatment community and the faith-based community; 3) Begin to develop a priority list of resources to assist faith leaders in understanding crisis situations and appropriate referrals to professional treatment, and 4) Develop a plan to disseminate resources. Research reflects that the faith community is often the first identifier of mental health issues and that people often seek a faith leader when experiencing mental health issues before any other professional. Therefore, this meeting was conducted with the belief that faith-based communities can be essential partners to the professional treatment communities throughout the mental health continuum of care.


Stetzer, Ed. (September 2018). The Church and Mental Illness: A Look at the Data. Power point presentation at the SAMHSA Faith-Based Expert Panel Meeting, Rockville, MD.

**Presenter Bio (s):** Tracie Pogue is a Public Health Analyst at SAMHSA, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. She works in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer. One of her duties is helping to inform the faith-based community of mental health and substance use services. Ms. Pogue received her Master of Divinity at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, her Master of Sacred Theology at Yale Divinity School, and her Master of Social Work at Florida State University. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Virginia. Ms. Pogue has spoken at various national conferences regarding Federal grants and faith-based initiatives at SAMHSA. Her professional practice includes work in substance use and mental health, child welfare and homeless services.

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**Workshop Title:** Using Social Work Skills to Lead Through and Manage Conflict

**Workshop Presenters:** Houston Thompson, Ed.D., MSW

**Workshop Abstract:** All professionals encounter conflict. This workshop applies social work skills to the art of assessing, understanding, and managing conflict. Different interventions will be highlighted in order to give leaders, managers, pastors, and other professionals legitimate options for managing conflict with a Christ-like character.
Learning Objectives: As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- be introduced to the application of social work skills to assess and understand conflict.
- be introduced to a variety of approaches, based on risk and reward, for managing conflict.
- be challenged to reflect Christ-like character in managing conflict.

Level of Presentation: Intermediate

Target Audience: Social Workers, Church Leaders, General Audience

Workshop Description: Using Social Work Skills to Lead Through and Manage Conflict  
A. Defining conflict (5 min)  
B. Assessing and understanding conflict (15 min)  
C. Approaches to managing conflict (25 min)  
D. Reflecting Christ in conflict (5 min)  
E. Q&A (10 min) or if online: expanded content on the above.

This workshop ends with discussing the Christ-like character necessary for managing conflict. From inspirational concepts to three absolute components, the case for Christ-likeness in managing conflict is made. This workshop uses foundational social work skills (learned in a BSW program) to illustrate how conflict should be assessed. Using the Ecological / Person-in-Environment theory, coupled with Systems theory and the Strengths Based Perspective, the art of assessing and understanding a conflicted situation is discussed. Once the social works skills are conceptualized for managing conflict, six models of conflict management will be illustrated. Each model reflects the associated risk and reward that accompanies it. The goal is to help participants understand there are options for managing conflict that depend upon the unique situation and risk involved. An overarching goal of this workshop is understand that conflict does not have to be a negative that produces negative outcomes. Conflict properly assessed and managed in a Christ-like manner can become opportunity.

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Houston Thompson, Conflict Management for Faith Leaders, (Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 2014)

**Presenter Bio (s):** Dr. Houston Thompson is Director of Grants Administration at Olivet Nazarene University. Prior to this, he served as a dean, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, and chair of the Department of Social Work and Criminal Justice. Dr. Thompson holds an Ed.D. from Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville, (2007), a MSW from Spalding University, Louisville, (1999), and a Master of Church Management from Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL, (1997). He is a licensed social worker in the state of Indiana and an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene. Before his university service, he was a pastor, school social worker, and executive director of a faith-based social service agency. He is the author of a book, Conflict Management for Faith Leaders. He has conducted many professional development workshops and presented on an array of topics in various settings.

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**Workshop Title:** Factors Affecting Health Status Among College Students: The Impact of BMMRS

**Workshop Presenters:** Dong Yoon, PhD

**Workshop Abstract:** With a non-clinical sample of 249 undergraduate students, the results confirm that spiritual variables (Multidimensional Measure of Religiousness/Spirituality: BMMRS) are unique predictors of mental health beyond demographics and personality, as well as a need to consider both positive and negative spiritual beliefs when predicting mental health.

**Learning Objectives:** As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Overview findings of previous studies on relationships between religiousness/spirituality and health status
- Understand the significance of conducting research linking religiosity/spirituality to mental health among college students
- Develop spiritual intervention for college students who have mental health problems

**Level of Presentation:** Basic, Intermediate

**Target Audience:** Social Workers, Educators, Students
Workshop Description: The presenter will discuss findings of previous studies as follows: 1) how religion and spirituality have been important factors in understanding physical and mental health; 2) how personality and spirituality predict mental health among college students. (5 minutes)

The presenter will explain the purpose and rationale for this study: This study aims to test whether religiousness and spirituality defined by results of factor analysis predict physical and mental health beyond demographic and personality factors among college students. (5 minutes)

The presenter will describe measurements: 8 Subscales of Multidimensional Measure of Religiousness/Spirituality: BMMRS, personality measurements, and health status and data collection process. (10 minutes)

A factor analysis of this measure in the current sample indicated five specific factors emerged in the affective, cognitive, and social process dimensions. These five factors are conceptualized as follows: positive spirituality (16 items), religious practices (four items), forgiveness (three items), positive congregational support (three items), and negative spirituality/congregational support (three items).

The presenter will discuss results of the study and explain major findings by comparing and contrasting with previous studies. (15 minutes)

In multiple hierarchical regression, BMMRS factors were added to the regression to assess whether these religious/spiritual variables could explain variance beyond that explained by demographics and personality traits. Results indicated that the BMMRS factors of positive spirituality and a lack of negative spirituality/negative support predicted an additional 8% of the variance in mental health scores ($F = 13.38$, $p < 0.0001$; Adjusted R = 0.41). The presenter will suggest future implications. (10 minutes)

Although correlational research cannot assess causality, clinical and chaplaincy approaches may benefit from awareness of the predictive value of positive spirituality and negative spirituality/support for mental health, especially in work with similar samples. Research can assess spiritual interventions that integrate supports for positive spirituality and mitigation of negative spirituality/support to promote the mental health and functioning. Many college-based health and wellness programs focus on nutrition, sleep, exercise, and stress management. However, private religious colleges also promote spiritual and religious practices. The results further support the need to identify and address the positive and negative aspect.


Presenter Bio (s): I am Dong Pil Yoon who is Associate Professor at University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri and I've been working here at Mizzou for 18 years. I've earned my PhD from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1997. I primarily teach classes for undergraduate students now, and I've been doing research in the area of spirituality for 15 years. My research interests have centered on religiosity and spirituality and how they affect both physical and mental health. I explore the impact of religiosity/spirituality on quality of life among people with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and disabilities such as spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury. The overall findings of my research support a growing body of literature documenting a positive relationship between religiosity, spirituality, and mental/physical health.