



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, Angela T. Khabebe, and Doug Mork, Pastors

BUILDING DIGNITY AND RESPECT COUNCIL, PART 2

Doug Mork, Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

If you had a chance to see Part 1 last week, I shared a little about the context that led us to build BDC and the Worker Driven Social Responsibility (WSR) model it's based on. Our website is still pretty basic (buildingdignityandrespect.org) but the report we released with the WSR-Network last December has more detail on the present crisis (<https://wsr-network.org/bdrreport/>). Unfortunately, we have already seen examples of the worst of these industry practices in some of the demolition work done within blocks of Holy Trinity.

Here is the basic outline of how BDC will work:

Step 1: A Developer will sign a legally binding agreement with BDC to only use contractors who agree to abide by the Code of Conduct. Developers also agree to pay a percentage of a project into an independently managed fund that will make workers whole in the case of violations like wage theft.

Step 2: Participating contractors go through an orientation on the Code and a baseline compliance audit. They also set up safety (OSHA-10) and workers' rights education sessions for their workers and provide our worker with handbooks and materials in the appropriate language.

Step 3: Participating contractors follow the wage, health and safety, work schedule, and other conditions of employment set forth in the Code.

Step 4: BDC staff monitor compliance on and off site, receive and respond to worker complaints, and investigate violations of the Code.

Step 5: BDC notifies contractors of code violations and develops Corrective Action Plans and Complaint Resolutions to resolve issues. BDC also notifies developers if contractors are in noncompliance.

Step 6: All parties agree to binding arbitration to resolve any disputes about specific remedies.

As I mentioned last week, one of the key attributes of the WSR model is to assign responsibility for working conditions to the top of the supply chain, where the money and power really reside. Not just in construction but all over our economy, there has long been a tendency to wash hands of responsibility for how workers are treated, especially workers at the bottom of the supply chain. Perhaps you have been involved in previous efforts to leverage consumer power to hold large corporations responsible for workers at the bottom. Think about the grape boycotts or the anti-sweatshop campaigns.

(continued in next column)

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

ADULT FORUM

SUNDAY, 9:30 AM

Login at zoom.us or call 312-626-6799 or click [here](#)

Meeting ID: 858 5687 1594 / Password: 317879

SEPTEMBER 6 AND 13

"The Role of Preaching in a Time of Protest & Pandemic"

Karoline Lewis,

Professor of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary

Preaching has always been central to the worship life of communities of faith, but its purpose changes in the changing circumstances of our lives, our nation, and our world. What should preaching do and how should preaching sound in these unprecedented times of converging realities of protest and pandemic?

(continued from previous column)

While developers are at the top of the formal structure here, there are at least three additional key players in this part of the economy: banks and other sources of finance, public officials with authority over building codes and public finance mechanisms, and "consumers" who buy or rent housing and elect public officials who make development decisions. Here is one of the key places where faith values and the power of organized faith communities can make a difference in this work. Corporations and businesses rarely give away power voluntarily. For this project to ultimately be successful, large numbers of people in the Twin Cities are going to have to demand different behavior based on our values about the dignity and safety that workers at every level of the economy deserve. People of faith are uniquely positioned to demand that our economy must serve people, not the other way around.

QUESTIONS ABOUT RACISM CONSULTATION

A number of questions arose from members of Holy Trinity after Alicia Sojourner's presentation and report on Institutional Racism. While several questions deserve more attention and discussion than an FAQ can provide, you may find the answers helpful as a starting point. You'll find the FAQ on the Holy Trinity website under "Members." Additional questions are still welcome; direct them to a member of the Racial Justice Group (listed at the end of the FAQ).

PARISH INFORMATION

DIALOGUES ON RACE DISCUSSION SERIES—CHAPTER 6

Please join members from the Racial Justice Committee and Doctrine of Discovery Task Force for the continuation of the bi-weekly discussion series based on the short book, *Dialogues on Race*. The sixth chapter (*Two Christianities: American Religion in Black and White*), led by David Berg and Rev. Marchelle Hallman, will be discussed September 9, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. If you would like a copy of the book (no charge), email Randy Nelson (rnelson1941@yahoo.com). Discussion questions are emailed to previous attendees.

To join this session, click [here](#) or login to Zoom, (or dial 312-626-6799 from your phone) and enter the meeting ID 987 6541 0718 and passcode 893110. All Holy Trinity members and friends are welcome to participate. If you have not previously participated, you are welcome to join the session (each chapter pertains to a different topic).

STAYING CONNECTED

In this time of physical distancing, we want to ensure that people have the tools they need to stay connected. If your household does not have an electronic device that allows you to watch worship videos and join Zoom calls, please let us know. We want to help, at no cost to you. Please note: you will need access to a WiFi network to connect in this way.

WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

Are you interested in making new connections with other Holy Trinity folk around a book, a topic of interest, a spiritual practice, or an outdoor adventure this fall? While many of us are spending more time at home and feeling physically distant from the relationships that sustain us, we want to know that we are not alone and that we really do belong to one another.

The **Communities of Calling Team** (Deb Anderson, Erin Arifin, Kathy Howe, Sandra Hisakuni, Mike Mann, Pastor Ingrid, and Ann Schrooten) will soon be announcing a new round of small groups starting up this fall, and we'd love your input! These groups are intentionally small to allow for easy conversation and sharing of thoughts and ideas around the focus of the group. Groups are limited to 6 people who meet via Zoom or safely in the great outdoors for a series of 4 sessions. If you are interested in belonging to such a group, or if you have an idea for a group that you'd be interested in joining, please email Ann Schrooten (aschrooten@htlcmpls.org).

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Several years ago a group of Holy Trinity members and friends created and installed a mosaic in the church garden in two phases. This artwork is now in need of some repair. If you are able bodied, please consider joining us in this work this fall and possibly committing to help maintain the mosaic in the future. This is a great service opportunity for teens. Contact Helen Norheim (hpnorheim@gmail.com) or Juliann Rohn (juliann32@comcast.net).

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH FOCUS GROUPS

Thanks to all who have participated in the recent focus groups. The remaining groups are filled. The Stepping Out in Faith group is considering adding a few more times; watch the Community Church for more information.

WORSHIP LINK FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

The worship service for August 30 can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/452875078>. We invite you to find bread or crackers, wine or grape juice (or any morsel of food and sip of liquid) in your house and celebrate Holy Communion with us.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PASTOR INGRID

The Personnel Committee and I would like you to know that we've been in conversation with Pastor Angela regarding the Family First Leave. It's a leave that, in the age of COVID, allows parents and caregivers to attend to loved ones who are ill or who need additional care (e.g., online school). We are pleased to say that Pastor Angela will take three months Family First Leave beginning September 1. We will miss her, of course, but fully support her other vocations—including Mom—during this time.

As Pastor Angela goes on leave, I plan to return to full-time work. While this shortens my modified parental leave, please know that the Personnel Committee is committed to ensuring that I receive the full benefit on an adjusted schedule. I'll be primarily working from home this fall so as to reduce the number of people in the church office on a daily basis, but can be reached by email or by calling the church office (612-729-8358).

This fall, like every other season at Holy Trinity, we will draw on the talents of staff and congregational leaders. This faith community has no shortage of gifted people. That includes you! I am confident that we have the resources to continue to support vibrant ministry in the weeks and months to come.

We give thanks that Pastor Angela can step away for a time, and we look forward to welcoming her back in December

TEAMWORK

Beginning in September, we will consider special services like funerals, weddings, and ordinations, and sacraments and rites, like baptisms and Confirmation, on a case-by-case basis. These gatherings will have no more than 25 people in attendance and will have strict guidelines to ensure the safety of pastors, staff, and worshipers. If you would be willing to serve as an usher for these special gatherings, please email Sue Roberts (sroberts@htlcmpls.org) or call the church office by September 9 to indicate your interest. Ushers will be trained in COVID protocols and will help to ensure that all those in attendance follow the safety guidelines.

BIG MEETING NIGHTS SEPTEMBER 3 AND SEPTEMBER 8

Big Meeting Nights for September are Thursday, September 3, and Tuesday, September 8. Committee chairs should let Pam know (pwetterlund@htlcmpls.org) which night they plan to meet. Committee chairs will send the Zoom link to their committees prior to the meeting time.