

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATION (CC) EXPERIENCE

What is Collaborative Communication?

- Engagement in a rich conversation with others
- An opportunity for honest listening and gracious questioning
- An opportunity for *koinonia* (fellowship) because we share our authentic selves and create common ground or experience

Collaborative Communication is a method of interpersonal engagement that involves a rich dialogue between individuals. The process is rooted in an examination of individual experiences and beliefs; it involves thinking together with other people. Outcomes as a result of CC include better-informed decision-making through collaboration which creates greater cohesion and community. One purpose of collaborative communication is to know yourself and those around you better. Jesus tells us the greatest commandment is to love the Lord, and the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-39). The reciprocity of collaborative communication requires sharing one's authentic self, recognizing another's authentic self and speaking words of truth. This respect is a form of loving your neighbor deeply. The safe and respectful space of collaborative communication creates opportunities for interactions with others unlike ourselves.

Collaborative Communication is not:

- A framework for admonishment or correction.
- A debate or an opportunity to advocate for your position or agenda.
- An attempt to come up with church policy or position on a particular issue.

What are the benefits of participating in the training?

- To have Christ-centered and life-giving conversations.
- To glorify God by loving well even in disagreement.
- To learn to listen well is a way of practicing hospitality.
- To grow in understanding of ourselves and others.

Logistical details:

During the opening retreat, participants will be introduced to CC tools. During the 10 weekly sessions that follow the retreat, participants will practice facilitating dialogue in their lives and the small groups. Together we will explore how CC impacts relationships and builds community.

Participants will be asked to commit to the following:

- Retreat: January 15-17 (Friday through Sunday) in LaFollette, TN
- Weekly small-group sessions during January 21-March 26
 - Saturdays, 10 am-12 pm
 - OR
 - Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
- Outside readings (not to exceed 10 pages/week)
- End of training feedback on CC experience

How to register:

If this is of interest to you, please email jill@allsoulsknoxville.com no later than **December 29 at 4:00 pm** with your email address and phone number. Please also indicate your availability for the Saturday or Thursday small group sessions; if available for either, indicate that. **Please note:** *Participants in this training will not be able to participate in the Colossian Way class, which begins with Lent (more information on this will be forthcoming).*