

Stewardship Circle - Workshop 4: Discovering Gifts, Establishing Rituals

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Workshop Descriptor

Community stewardship requires us to create opportunities to identify and utilize people's gifts, and also to bring people together to build hope by acknowledging accomplishments and difficulties on the path towards creating healthy communities. This one-day event will provide the opportunity to build mutual understanding and abilities in both of these important areas. During the morning, we will learn and practice the art of distinguishing between people's skills and their true gifts. This is important to community since we get better results when people are doing things they are passionate about rather than just things they have the skills to do. During the afternoon, we will investigate the techniques for developing community rituals that bring hope to individuals and groups.

Content

Themes for Morning Session on Identifying and Using Gifts

- Understanding the evolution from "strengths" to "gifts" and why it's important
- Learning how older cultures discovered and utilized gifts
- How to frame community "problems" as opportunity-finding moments using gifts
- Introduction and use of the "3 Gift Buckets" tool
- Practice organizing a community project based on participants gifts
- Identification of participant's primary gifts

Themes for Afternoon Session on Creating Community Rituals to build Hope

- Understanding recent research about how hope is creating in the human brain
- Distinguishing between hope, resilience, and optimism and why that's important
- Defining the three components for hope to thrive
- Identifying the four types of community rituals that are essential for hope to thrive
- Practicing the 7-Steps to effective ritual design
- Discussion of local action based on this presentation

Structure

The training includes a mix of presentation of ideas and research, large-group discussion, small-group discussion, practice of the techniques to be successful, and discussion about how to implement these tools in your situation.

Preparation in Advance of the Workshop

In order to help participants prepare for the Module, the following information has been provided:

- 1) Relevant pre-reading materials and resources. As a minimum we would ask that participants read the 'primary reading' suggested on the list.
- 2) A list of possible questions that may be explored at the workshop.

Pre-Reading and Useful Resources

Primary Reading

Gifts:

1. Does Everyone Have a Gift? Excerpt from: *The Active Life*, Parker Palmer (electronic copy available)
2. Three Lies about Gifts - How to Use Your Gifts: Debunking the Gifts Myths (electronic copy available) From: http://www.dolifebig.com/2011/09/06/how-to-use-your-gifts-debunking-the-gifts-myths/#.VFGh_0tYFBU
3. Being On-Point: Dancing with our gifts by *Bruce Anderson* (electronic copy available)
4. Most Common Questions and Answers about Gifts (Gifts FAQ), 2013. (electronic copy available)

Hope/Rituals:

5. We Become One: Designing Rituals for Individuals and Groups by Bruce Anderson (electronic copy available)

Community Building:

6. Changing Hearts Key to Community Building, Bruce Anderson ((electronic copy available)
7. Bruce Anderson interview on Abundant Communities: <http://www.talkshoe.com/tc/115124>

Reading List and Resources

Discovering and Using Core Gifts - Community Activators, 2012

1. The Gift. Lewis Hyde. New York, NY: Random House, 1983
2. The Teacher's Gift: Discovering and Using Your Core Gift to Inspire and Heal. Bruce E. Anderson. Vashon, WA: Island Press, 2006
4. The Soul's Code. James Hillman. New York, NY: Random House, 1996
5. The Will to Meaning. Victor Frankl. New York, NY: Penguin 1969
6. The Gift. Marcel Mauss. New York, NY: Norton 1990
7. Callings: Finding and Following an Authentic Life. Gregg Levoy. New York, NY: Random House, 1997

8. Transforming Suffering. Edited by Donald W. Mitchell and James Wiseman, O.S.B. New York, NY: Doubleday, 2003
9. The Way of Transition. William Bridges. Cambridge, MA: Perseus Books, 2001
10. Rites and Symbols of Initiation. Mircea Eliade. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1958
11. Driven. Paul Lawrence & Nitin Nohria. San Fransisco, CA: Jossey-Bass 2002
12. Creating a Life. James Hollis. Toronto, ON: Inner City Books, 2001
13. The Identity Code. Larry Ackerman. New York, NY: Random House 2005
14. The Light Inside the Dark. John Tarrant. New York, NY: Harper Collins 1998
15. Unique Ability. Catherie Nomura & Julia Waller. Toronto, ON: Stratigic Coach, Inc. 2009
16. The Wounded Healer. Henri Nouwen. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1972
17. Holy Eros: Recovering the Passion of God (Conclusion), James & Evelyn Whitehead, New York, NY, Maryknoll 2009
18. Men and the Water of Life. Michael Meade. San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, 1993
19. How to Find Your Mission in Life. Richard Bolles. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, 2000
20. The Healing Wisdom of Africa. Malidoma Some. New York, NY: Putnam, 1998.
21. The Hero With a Thousand Faces. Joseph Campbell. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Press 1949
22. The Process of Forgiveness. William Meninger. New York, NY: Continuum Publishing, 1996
23. Intelligence Reframed. Howard Gardner. New York, NY: Basic Books, 1999
24. Emotional Genius. Karla McLaren. Columbia, CA: Laughing Tree Press, 2001
25. Kinds of Power. James Hillman. New York, NY: BantamDoubleday, 1995
26. The Purpose of Your Life. Carol Adrienne. New York, NY: William Morrow, 1998
27. The Active Life. Parker Palmer. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1990
28. Cancer as Initiation. Barbara Stone. Peru, IL: Open Court Publishing, 1995

See also Bibliogrphahy "Rituals of Resiliency: How Organizations Create Positive Hopeful Work Cultures. (electronic copy available)

Core Questions (to consider / for exploration at workshop)

For Gifts:

- 1) As a leader, why are gifts important to you?
- 2) How confident are you in promoting the identification and use of gifts?
- 3) What primary gifts do you bring to your work as a steward?

For Hope and Rituals:

- 4) What rituals did you grow up with?
- 5) Who in your relationship circle would be interested in developing rituals?
- 6) What rituals are most important for your neighborhood right now?
- 7) How confident are you in bringing people together to design rituals?