

CENTER FOR PURPOSEFUL LEADERSHIP



*The Heart of
Convening*

FALL RETREAT 2021
OCTOBER 21 - 24

THE DESIGN TEAM WELCOMES YOU!
Patricia Neal, Terry Chapman, Cecily Victor,
Craig Neal, Mary Elaine Kiener, Brian Reinbold

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GATHER?

Who Are We to Be Together?

As Purposeful Leaders, holders of space, and conveners of change, it is crucial to have the opportunity to pause and gather the learnings from these past impactful months.

The heart of convening is relationships. We know everything is in relation, interrelated: human-to-human, human-to-the-natural-world.

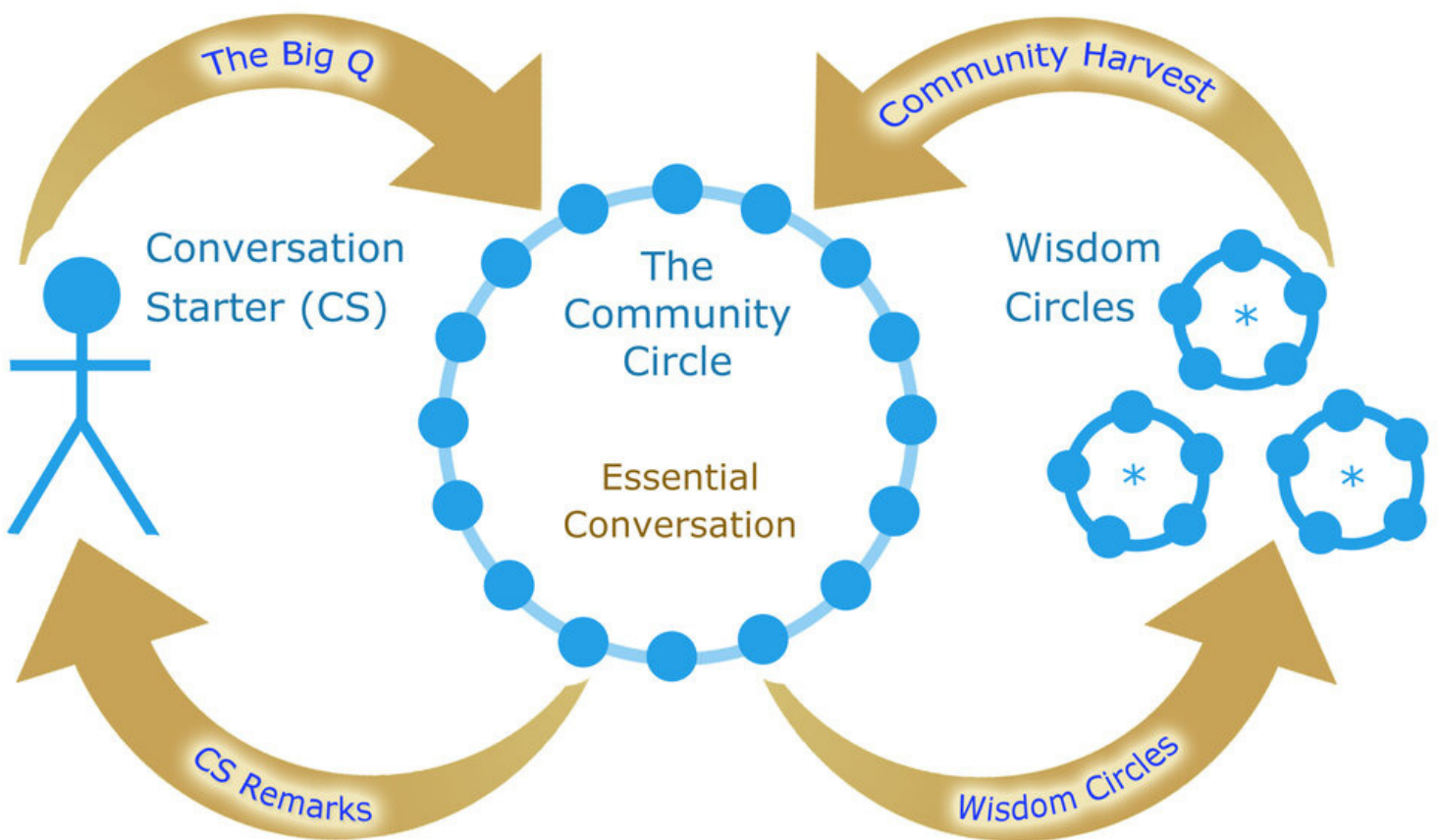
The questions we've been asking in Essential Conversations and Art of Convening programs are:

"Who Are We to Be Together?"

"Who Do We Choose to Be Together?"

These are heart-of-the-matter questions as we craft individual and collective visions, on behalf of those we serve, for a world that works for all.

We will follow the consistent pattern of CPL gatherings, offering opportunities for connection and impactful conversations, and harvest the collective wisdom that emerges.



OVERVIEW SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 21 - 24, 2021

OPENING CEREMONY

THURS Evening
7:00 PM CDT

**4 ALL-COMMUNITY GATHERING
SESSIONS**

FRI • SAT
9:00-10:30 AM CDT
7:00-8:30 PM CDT

**2 OPEN SPACE &
VISIONING GATHERINGS**

FRI • SAT
1:00-3:00 PM CDT

CLOSING CEREMONY

SUN Morning
9:30 AM CDT

**(OPTIONAL) MORNING
MEDITATION/SIT/CENTERING**

FRI • SAT • SUN
Morning
7:00-7:30AM CDT

BUDDY SYSTEM: ZOOM PARTICIPANTS MAY
CHOOSE TO HAVE AN IN-PERSON BUDDY
THROUGHOUT THE RETREAT.

TIMING: ALL TIMES MAY BE ADJUSTED
ACCORDING TO EMERGING THEMES/FLOW.

4 ALL-COMMUNITY GATHERING SESSIONS

- Convening the Inner Life FRI • Morning
9:00 - 10:30 AM CDT
 - Convening Relationships:
Global Voices FRI • Evening
7:00 - 8:30 PM CDT
 - Convening Organizations/Communities
(organizational, social, cultural systems) SAT • Morning
9:00 - 10:30 AM CDT
 - Convening the Environment
(the natural or more than human world) SAT • Evening
7:00 - 8:30 PM CDT
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2 OPEN SPACE & VISIONING SESSIONS

SAT • SUN AFTERNOON 1:00-3:00PM CDT

Topics may include:

- Visioning Together
 - Essential Conversations
 - AoC in Action: Convening Essential Conversations
 - Racial Justice: Putting the J in DEI
 - Whole Person Leadership
 - Interior: The Inner Work of Convening
 - Sustainability/Climate Change
 - Community Development
 - International Voices
 - Sharing Poetry/Music/Art
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CONVENING THE INNER LIFE

FRI • MORNING 9:00 - 10:30 AM CDT

Conversation Starters: Terry Chapman and Cecily Victor
Convener: Patricia Neal

Convening is an “inside job”. The question at heart of the matter is “Who am I?” This is an area we can explore the inner work of convening. “The success of any intervention is dependent on the interior state of the intervener”.

Some questions we might consider here are:

- How do I stay grounded/centered when there is so much disruption?
- How can I be more confident as a Convener?
- What are practices that can help navigate feelings of vulnerability?
- What does it mean to “presume positive intent while being conscious of outcomes of my actions”?

CONVENING RELATIONSHIPS: GLOBAL VOICES

FRI • EVENING 7:00 - 8:30 PM CDT

Conversation Starters: TBD
Convener: Craig Neal and Cecily Victor

All transformation is relational. At the Heart of the Matter is, “Who am I in relationship?” How are we called to be together? In this topic we will explore the challenges and opportunities presented in relationships.

Some questions we might consider here are:

- How do Convening principles apply to my family life?
 - How do Convening principles apply to my professional life?
 - Where can I turn for help when I get stuck?
 - When do I need to be more sensitive with dynamics of power and privilege?
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CONVENING ORGANIZATIONS/COMMUNITIES

SAT • MORNING 9:00 - 10:30 AM CDT

Conversation Starters: Kelly Chatman and Pamela Meade

Convener: Kim Kristenson-Lee

Here is where The Art of Convening really shines! Designed for “the gathering and holding of people in essential conversation for the best possible outcome.”

Convening is a powerful tool in organizations to help generate effective and efficient co-creation and to address systemic change. This is a "topic" to engage challenges and opportunities in organizations and communities.

Some questions we might consider here are:

- How do Convening principles/practices apply to organizational systems?
- How do Convening principles/practices apply to community systems?

CONVENING THE ENVIRONMENT

SAT • EVENING 7:00 - 8:30 PM CDT

Conversation Starters: Dana Slade and Keith Curtis

Convener: Harry Waters Jr.

“Our relationship with the earth involves something more than pragmatic use, academic understanding, or aesthetic appreciation. A truly human intimacy with the earth and with the entire natural world is needed. Our children should be properly introduced to the world in which they live.” (Thomas Berry, “Human Presence,” in *The Dream of the Earth*, 13).

Some questions we might consider here are:

- How can Convening practices help me become more intimate with the “more than human world”?
 - What practices can open my mind and heart to the gift and beauty of nature?
 - What stories from indigenous cultures help me appreciate the Earth?
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CPL RETREAT CALENDAR SCHEDULE

OCT 21 - OCT 24, 2021

CDT	THU Oct 21, 2021	FRI Oct 22, 2021	SAT Oct 23, 2021	SUN Oct 24, 2021		ZOOM OPPORTUNITIES	
6:30 AM							
7:00 AM		(OPT) Morning Meditation 7:00-7:30 AM CDT	(OPT) Morning Meditation 7:00-7:30 AM CDT	(OPT) Morning Meditation 7:00-7:30 AM CDT			
7:30 AM		Breakfast	Breakfast	Light Breakfast			
8:00 AM							
8:30 AM							
9:00 AM		All Community Gathering:	All Community Gathering:	All Community Gathering:		9:00 - 11:00 AM CDT	
9:30 AM			Convening in Organizations & Communities 9:00 - 10:30 AM CDT	Closing Ceremony 9:30 - 11:00 AM CDT			
10:00 AM		Convening the Inner Life 9:00 - 10:30 AM CDT					
10:30 AM		creative/visioning exercises					
11:00 AM				Brunch			
11:30 AM							
12:00 PM		Lunch	Lunch				
12:30 PM							
1:00 PM		Lunch	Lunch				
1:30 PM		2 Open Space & Visioning Sessions 1:00-3:00PM CDT	2 Open Space & Visioning Sessions 1:00-3:00PM CDT			1:00 - 3:00 PM CDT	TOPICS: 2 Open Space & Visioning Sessions Visioning Together Essential Conversations
2:00 PM							AoC in Action: Convening Essential Conversations
2:30 PM							Racial Justice: Putting the J in DEIJ
3:00 PM	Check-in						Whole Person Leadership
3:30 PM							Interior: The Inner Work of Convening
4:00 PM							Sustainability/Climate Change
4:30 PM							Community Development
5:00 PM							International Voices
5:30 PM	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner				Sharing Poetry/Music/Art
6:00 PM							Zoom choices to be added
6:30 PM							
7:00 PM	All Community Gathering: Opening Ceremony 7:00 - 8:30 PM CDT	All Community Gathering: Convening Relationships: Global Voices 7:00 - 8:30 PM CDT	All Community Gathering:			7:00 - 9:00 PM CDT	
7:30 PM			Convening the Environment 7:00 - 8:30 PM CDT				
8:00 PM	creative/visioning exercises						
8:30 PM	Networking/ connection time	Networking/ connection time	Networking/ connection time				