

**Leadership Summit**  
**Rocky Mountain Conference**  
September 23, 2017  
Living Into Beloved Community

- I. Youngsook
- Why we are here?
    - We come together as conference leaders to continue to cast and affirm our vision and articulate how we live out our vision.
  - Summit expectations
    - To prioritize and identify *one or two* policy or advocacy goals which both the local and connectional church will strive to achieve.
    - To identify ways in which we achieve those goals –ie. SMART Goals - goals (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound).
  - Work product of the summit
    - If the goal is clean drinking water in tribal communities, action items may include community organizing in solidarity with tribal leaders; conducting an awareness campaign; working with federal, state, and local officials; fielding mission teams; holding dedicated offerings, etc
- II. Carolyn Love on Gracious Space:
- Spirit
  - Setting
  - Welcoming the Stranger
  - Being Willing to Learn in Public

Small groups engaged this question:

What needs to be present in the room for you to share your best thinking about creating our Beloved Community?

- Process information in our own way and be allowed to do that
- Openness to new ideas and breaking old molds
- Diverse people and ideas, including theological diversity
- Joyful laughter
- Awareness of issues
- Genuine listening
- Matriarchal view and approach
- Clear understanding and common vocabulary of the Beloved Community
- Recognition and acknowledgement of the presence of the Holy Spirit
- Flexibility
- Willing to be vulnerable
- Use “I-statements” and speak for yourselves

- No gunnysacking: *dragging all of our personal disagreements around until we have a chance to share them outside of the group conversation; parking lot conversations, texting during meeting*

Not asked:

What do you need in order to return to your respective church responsibilities to help implement the food and water initiative?

- III. Theological and Biblical Grounding: *Bishop Karen, we are advancing the Beloved Community (Kingdom or Realm of God). We hasten its coming through standing for one another, and the least among us.*

Responsive reading

What would our local church and our annual conference look like, feel like and be like if the Beloved Community became real for us?

*Tribal Lands water: shallow wells (less than 50 feet deep) are not subject to federal regulations, thus the main source of water for Native American communities in our Conference have been contaminated by oil, gas & coal interests without redress by the tribes.*

*Food insecurity: help the often undereducated constituency fill out SNAP enrollment; provide computer and phone access they can use to enroll or contact potential employers; direct constituents to farm markets that accept SNAP payment.*

On mobile home park water:

Identifying those impacted in your congregation  
 Inventory mobile home parks in your city and town  
 Connect with the social justice advocates  
 Determine mobile home park zoning  
 Communicate with elected officials and local partners

Follow up with collateral, contact info of speakers

Follow-up One:

Work with advocacy groups, e.g., Together Colorado, to identify legislative action on food and water. *Policy makers are influenced by numbers, the public is influenced by faces. Provide both empirical and personal histories to these groups.*

Provide a variety of resources to build awareness and compassion to motivate action.

*Carolyn Love's Outcome Steps:*

Internal education-- *survey, gather external information, listen to communities*

External education-- *analyze and distribute refined data*

Build relationships, take action on legislation—*work with county, city and state officials, develop relationships with local leaders, get churches to host or reach out to constituent groups*

SMART Goal (Specific, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound)

How will we identify champions to help us get the congregation on board?

Share the challenge, e.g., we're trying to achieve clean drinking water or ensure food security.

How does your church do that?

Ask the question in our local community, within our church community, if you have a personal interest.

Internal examples: UMW, Missions, Youth, Finance, Pastors.

- Easier ways for churches to help existing food and water ministries, e.g., After Hours. How can we support those ministries and how do they help lead us forward?
- Conference resources provided for local church use.
- *Create template for local church involvement; ie, here's the link to your county services agency that already tracks hunger, here's the state water board data, etc.*

External examples: Nonprofit service providers, e.g., Catholic Charities, Aurora Interfaith, Metro Caring. Governmental agencies such as County Department of Human Services. Schools or school districts.

What additional input do we need?

What would we measure to know if we succeeded?

How do we plan for accountability and celebrate success?

How does activity connect to beloved community?

Additional resources/information/capacities needed?