

March 21, 2017 Connections Newsletter Edition
Click on the [headlines](#) below to read any of these stories.

Sankofa 2017: Journeying Back, Looking Forward

Nearly 50 years after Dr. King's assassination, 30 Twin Cities pastors kept Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream alive through Sankofa: Journey to Harmony. Sankofa is a Ghanaian phrase that translates as "go back and get it." Our Journey to Harmony encouraged participants to go back and face our country's roots in order to move forward. Following our inaugural Sankofa: Journey to Harmony, we are inspired, filled with hope and continuing to look forward. It has become all too clear that it is the Gospel that reconciles people. So as we look ahead, we continue to dream of God's multi-tribal Kingdom revealed in Revelation 7.



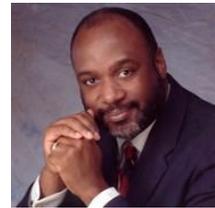
[Click here](#) to watch a 3 minute video of the Sankofa Journey to Harmony

Pastor's Column: Journey to Harmony Reflections

A handful of Sankofa participants wrote up their reflections to share with the Body of Christ in Minnesota. Read all six reflection pieces [here](#).

Rev. Dr. Charles Gill, Pilgrim Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Charles Gill reflects on his experience on the Sankofa journey, and how this trip violated the sanctity of his safe space. He writes about the residue of pain, humiliation, and shame in the African American experience, that he found he cannot wash off. And how as the trip progressed, Rev. Gill found many of those emotions began to leak out from under the locked door of his soul. Read what Rev. Gill is doing and what he desires for next steps as a result of this trip.



Pastor Kevin Walton, Bethany Baptist Church

Read Pastor Kevin Walton of Bethany Baptist Church's experience as he confronts the horrific past and misery inflicted on African Americans by American white society, and the struggles he had identifying as a white man, as a participant and beneficiary of a historically unjust society. Yet, Pastor Walton explains how he was encouraged by how God sustained His people in the face of evil, and the healing and transformative reconciliation offered at the cross of Christ.



Ashley Barnd, Evergreen Church - Bloomington

Read Ashley Barnd's experience on this Journey to Harmony as a biracial women who is in ministry in Bloomington with her husband. Ashley writes on having a deep visceral connection with the people who came before her and how they inspire her to keep pressing ahead regardless of the enormity of the task.



A Prophetic Call to Welcome the Refugee

As we seek to understand how Christians are called to welcome the alien in our midst, be confident in our country's screening process, knowing that refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of anybody who travels to the United States. But also put your confidence in God's calling on our lives to remember our ancestors who were once foreigners, and to show hospitality to the stranger. Included are [links to resources](#) from the March 2 Standing with Refugees event.





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Good Friday Prayer For Muslims
April 14 at Wooddale Church

Join us as we intercede for the 200,000 Muslims living in Minnesota and the 1.7 billion worldwide. Join us on Good Friday to pray for Muslims and remember the significance of Christ's death on the cross.



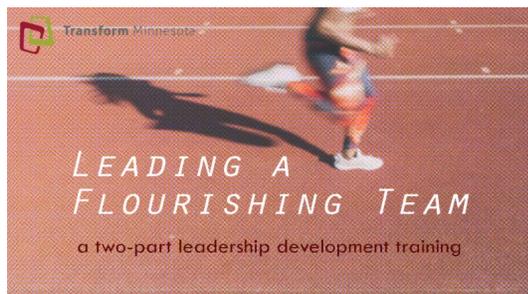
Design for Non-Designers
April 19, 9-11am at Transform Minnesota

This is a class that offers some helpful, backbone design skills to people in faith-based nonprofits who aren't officially designers, but find themselves doing the work anyhow. Learn basic rules.



Transform Ideas: The Timeless Call for Racial Harmony
April 27, 7-9pm at Hope Community Church

"The Timeless Call for Racial Harmony" will address the history of race and the sin of racism in America, pieces of our present day situation, and a future hope rooted in the Church's call to move forward with reconciliation and unity in the Kingdom of God.



Leading a Flourishing Team (2-Part Series)
May 4 and May 18 at Transform Minnesota, Richfield

How you lead your nonprofit or church and work with others matters. Maximizing your individual strengths and the strengths of your team is crucial for the flourishing of your ministry. Once you better understand yourself and one another, you can capitalize on your strengths and roles for a better quality work environment and more effective

outcomes in ministry. Join us for this 2-part interactive leadership development training.

Who We Are

Transform Minnesota exists to connect Christian leaders, develop Biblical solutions and equip churches that transform communities.