



## Connections Newsletter

### School & Church Partners, a Match Made in Heaven

The school is the hub of any community. As we approach Back to School season, many Minnesota **churches are partnering with local school districts** to meet the needs of their neighbors.

Read about the ways these churches and local organizations are showing the love of Jesus through **servicing their schools**.

And **find out ways your church** can experience the vibrant people and cultures of its community, by stepping inside of local schools.



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### Pastor's Column Series: Learning from Chaplains

#### Rev. Nicole Smith, Level 1 Trauma Hospital

Rev. Nicole Smith serves as a Chaplain at Hennepin Healthcare – a level 1 trauma hospital.

She shares about the **powerful role of silence and listening** when visiting patients in the hospital. And in a **beautiful poem**, Rev. Smith writes about the healing power of tears.



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#### Lt. Col. Philip Winn Jr., Minnesota Army National Guard

Lt. Col. Philip Winn Jr. serves as Chaplain for the Minnesota Army National Guard. He writes about the **unique places he has conducted worship services**, and the ways he takes God's presence with him when ministering to our armed forces.

Chaplain Winn **shares the importance** of caring for the religious, spiritual, ethical and moral needs of our country's Soldiers and families.



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### Welcoming the Stranger; a Biblical Perspective on Immigration

On August 2nd, more than 350 people heard a **message of compassion and justice** for immigrants and refugees shared by Matthew Soerens, co-author of "Welcoming the Stranger."

Arrive Ministries, the refugee resettlement affiliate of Transform Minnesota hosted the seminar. When Jesus was asked "**Who are my neighbors?**" Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan.

**Read how Jesus' answer** is still instructing the American Church on how we should respond to foreigners: refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers.





**Skillful Hiring**  
**August 28, 9-11am**  
**Transform Minnesota**

**Hire smart. Hire well. Hire for the long haul.**

Hiring well takes time, intentionality, and training. This training will teach how to best fill open positions with the right person for the job.



**Boost Employee Retention**  
**September 20, 9-11am**  
**Transform Minnesota**

**Maintain an Engaged Workforce and Reduce Turn-Over.**

Find out how to effectively retain employees by offering the right balance of competitive compensation, career advancement, and positive workplace relationships.



**Transform Ideas ST. CLOUD**  
**Sept. 25, 7-9pm**  
**Calvary Community Church, St. Cloud**

**A Faith Filled Response to Mental Illness and Recovery.**  
Back by popular demand, Transform Ideas: Awakening the Church to Mental Health is coming to St. Cloud!



**Transform Ideas: Holistic Pro-Life**  
**October 4, 7-9pm**  
**Bethlehem Baptist Church**

**Caring for the Beginning of Life & Abundant Life.**

We believe Christians have a call to be against abortion and pro-life. This Transform Ideas forum will look beyond the picket lines, and into a holistic view point of what it means to live out a pro-life stance.



**Slow Your Scroll**  
**October 11, 9-11am**  
**Transform Minnesota**

**Create Facebook Content that Makes People Stop and Share.**

This training will offer practical strategies for maximizing the use of your organization's Facebook account. Get more likes, shares, and overall Facebook engagement by creating buzz-worthy content for your target audience.



**Do Justice Conference with Bryan Stevenson**  
**November 8, 1-5:30pm**  
**Christ Presbyterian Church**

*An afternoon leadership conference.*

Bryan Stevenson is one of America's leading champions for justice reform in our prison systems and best-selling author of "**Just Mercy**."

The **Do Justice Conference** afternoon session is your **ONLY** chance to see Bryan Stevenson, and *tickets are selling fast*.

Due to the overwhelming response to priority registration for the **Do Justice Conference**, all tickets for **An Evening with Bryan Stevenson** are **SOLD OUT**. We are unable to release tickets on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

The **Do Justice Conference** afternoon session offers a unique opportunity to hear original content from Bryan Stevenson crafted specifically for the faith community. Registration includes a workshop session and the chance to hear Dr. Ken Young share a Biblical mandate for justice.

*Registration is required for the Do Justice Conference. Tickets are selling quickly.*

## Community Calendar

- **September 15 Minnesota Hope and Hearts Run/Walk**, Bunker Hills Regional Park, Coon Rapids
- **October 12 Soul Shop for Youth Workers**, Luther Seminary, St. Paul
- **November 17 Adoption and Beyond Conference**, City Hill Church, Eden Prairie

Does your church, ministry or organization have an upcoming event?  
If so, submit your event [here](#).



**Transform Minnesota**  
THE EVANGELICAL NETWORK

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

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1515 East 66th Street  
Richfield, MN 55423