

# the conversation project



Bringing Advance Care Planning  
Conversations to your Congregation

# Staff

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## Naomi Fedna

Project Coordinator  
The Conversation Project

- Graduate of University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Graduate student at Harvard Divinity School

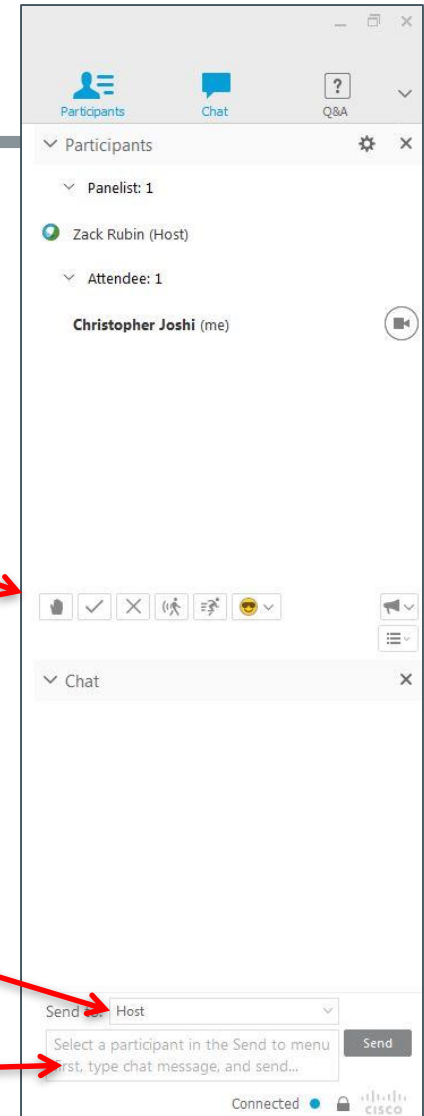
# WebEx Quick Reference

- Welcome to today's session!
- Please use Chat to "All Participants" for questions
- For technology issues only, please Chat to "Host"
- WebEx Technical Support: 866-569-3239
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**Raise your hand**

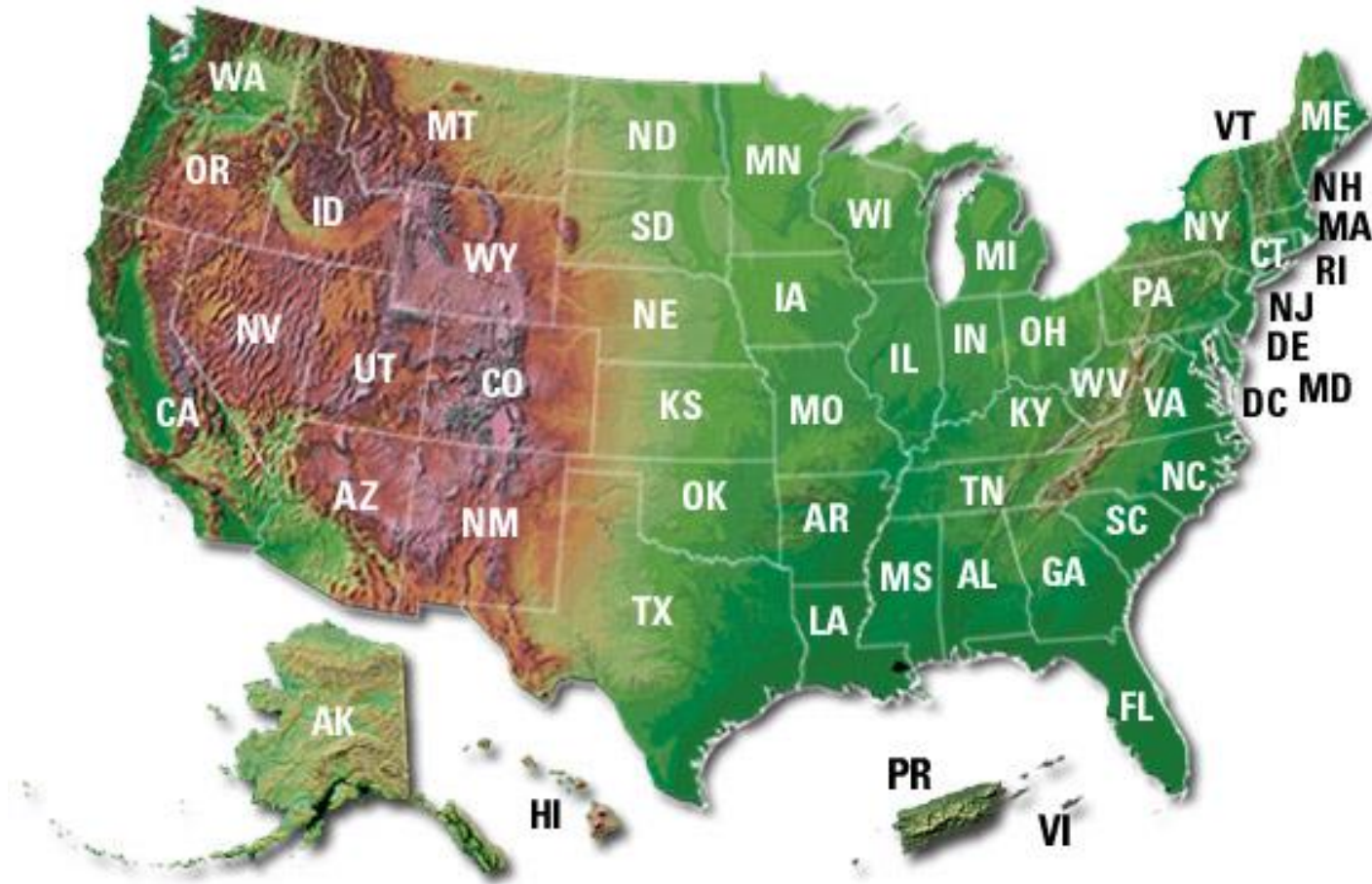
**Select chat recipient**

**Enter Text**



# Where are you located on the map?

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# Faculty

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Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, BSN, MDiv

Advisor to Faith Communities

The Conversation Project

- Graduate Georgetown University and Harvard Divinity School
- Ordained Unitarian Universality Minister, Served The First Church in Boston
- Graduate of Metta Institute
- Former R.N., CPE intern at DFCI, Hospice Volunteer

# Faculty

## Rev. Gloria White-Hammond, MD, MDiv

- Co-Pastor of Bethel AME Church, Boston, MA
- Swartz Resident Practitioner in Ministry Studies at Harvard Divinity School
- Co-director of Harvard Medical School and HDS course, “Medicine and Spirituality in Healing”
- Founder and executive director of My Sister's Keeper
- Championed a new ministry in her congregation: *Planning Ahead*



# What we hope you will take away

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- Insight into the role having The Conversation can play in pastoral care
- Ideas for preparing lay teams to support others to reflect on and express their wishes for care
- How to use The Conversation Project's various Conversation Starter Kits to support pastoral care engagement

# Agenda

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- How TCP's Conversation Starter Kits work as pastoral care aids
- Assessing what pastoral care means in your setting: who does it, when, how does communication work?
- Talking with Rev. Gloria White-Hammond about advance care planning and pastoral care



# Burning Questions

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- If you have a question that arose out of the content from last week—the role of sermons in encouraging The Conversation and advance care planning in your setting—please enter it into the chat and we will aim to weave answers into tonight's presentation.

# Action for Change

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- Change takes place because people decide to take action
- What action do you want to take?

# Change Ideas for Congregations

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- ☐ Sermons
- ☐ **Pastoral Care**
- ☐ Programming

# Why Focus on Pastoral Care?

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- When people are in a health care crisis, they turn to their health care providers and to their clergy leaders
- Like doctors, many clergy are not trained how to have conversations about serious or life-limiting illness
- These conversations are human conversations
- Developing our capacity to face mortality and exemplify having The Conversation for ourselves prepares us to lead

# Pastoral Care

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- Emotional and spiritual support
- Trained **pastoral** carers support people in their pain, loss and anxiety, and their triumphs, joys and victories
- Caring communities of people who care
- The «Pastor» is not the only one responsible for «pastoral» care



# Cultivating Capacity

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- Offer or seek professional and volunteer training to develop capacity for discussing end-of-life wishes among clergy, staff, lay leaders, and congregants
- Consider beginning with The Conversation Starter Kit and having “the conversation” as a step towards developing capacity

# Pastoral Care Development

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- Attend a clergy retreat or seminar on end-of-life care issues and conversations
- Offer a workshop for pastoral care associates or health care committee on how to facilitate introducing or having the conversation with congregants they visit
- Work with the Cantor or Music Director to recruit and train choir members to accompany the sick and dying with chanting or other music (e.g., Threshold Choir).
- Learn about palliative and hospice care and state-specific advance care planning (ACP) documents.

# Pastoral Resources

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- **Develop or update a library of documents pertaining to end-of-life care and wishes.**
  - Collect, display, and update accurate printed and digital information on advance care planning documents for your region, hospice and palliative care, as well as funeral and burial practices and resources.
  - Have website links and/or printed copies of the Conversation Starter Kit available to share as appropriate with congregants.

# Hospice Care

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- Hospice: Managing the End of Life by providing medical, emotional, and spiritual care to one who is dying while ensuring comfort and dignity
- For patients with a serious illness which no longer responds to treatments focused on a cure (life expectancy < 6-12 months)
- Helps patients clarify their priorities and establish goals of care while providing relief from pain and other symptoms
- Team approach
- Hospice is not about giving up!

# Palliative Care

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- Palliative: Soothing, Calming, Relieving
- Appropriate for patients at any age, regardless of the expected outcome of their illness (vs. Hospice: EOL care)
- Physical symptom relief
- Coordination of Care
- Patient and Family Support
- Assistance with Decision Making
- Does not prevent other treatments from being provided, including life-prolonging or potentially curative measures



# State-by-State ACP Documents

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- <https://www.medicare.gov/manage-your-health/advance-directives/advance-directives-and-long-term-care.html>
- <https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/financial-legal/free-printable-advance-directives/>

# Starter Kits as Pastoral Care Tools

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- Learn about special considerations for discussing end-of-life care wishes with people with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia, and parents of seriously ill children.



# Your Conversation Starter Kit

When it comes to end-of-life care,  
talking matters.



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Healthcare  
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# Your Conversation Starter Kit

For Families and Loved Ones of People  
with Alzheimer's Disease or Other  
Forms of Dementia



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# How to Choose a Health Care Proxy

&

# How to Be a Health Care Proxy



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# Conversations with Children

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- Pediatric Starter Kit is filled with stories and examples of how to talk with children.
  - Let them lead the way
  - Help them record their wishes for care and share with health care team
  - Talking about it doesn't make it happen
  - Every child is unique—so are their wishes
  - Examples and stories in pediatric kit are excellent guides for talking to people of every age!

# A Conversation with Pastor Gloria

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# Questions and Comments

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- Please type your questions or comments into the chat, or “raise your hand” using the icon and we will unmute your connection.

# Action and Accountability

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Getting Started:

Review TCP's special Conversation Kits designed for people with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia, and parents of seriously ill children.

# Pre Work for Next Call

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- What kinds of programs has your congregation offered on end-of-life care and advance care planning?
- By what measure(s) was that programming considered successful?
- What ideas for programming have you seen that you could imagine offering in your setting?



# Next Call

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**The next session on Programming will be:  
Tuesday, May 15, 2018 @ 8:00-9:00 PM EDT**

**We will be joined by Audrey Marsh from St. John the Evangelist, RC Church in Columbia, MD**

**Before shutting down your computer, please complete the survey that will pop up at the conclusion of this call.**

**THANK YOU! Have a beautiful week!**

# Closing

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“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said,  
people will forget what you did,  
but people will never forget  
how you made them feel.”

-Maya Angelou