

# 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

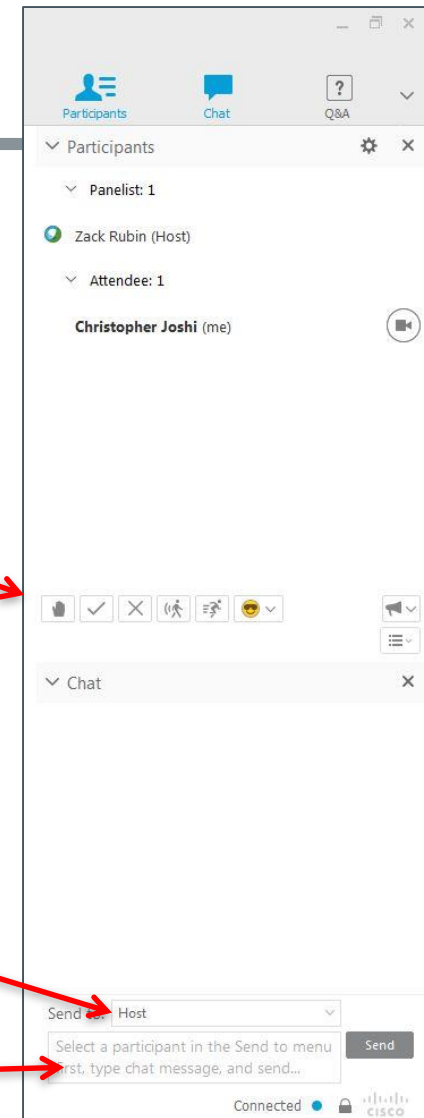
# WebEx Quick Reference

- 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
- Dial-in Info: Audio / Audio Conference (in menu)

**Raise your hand**

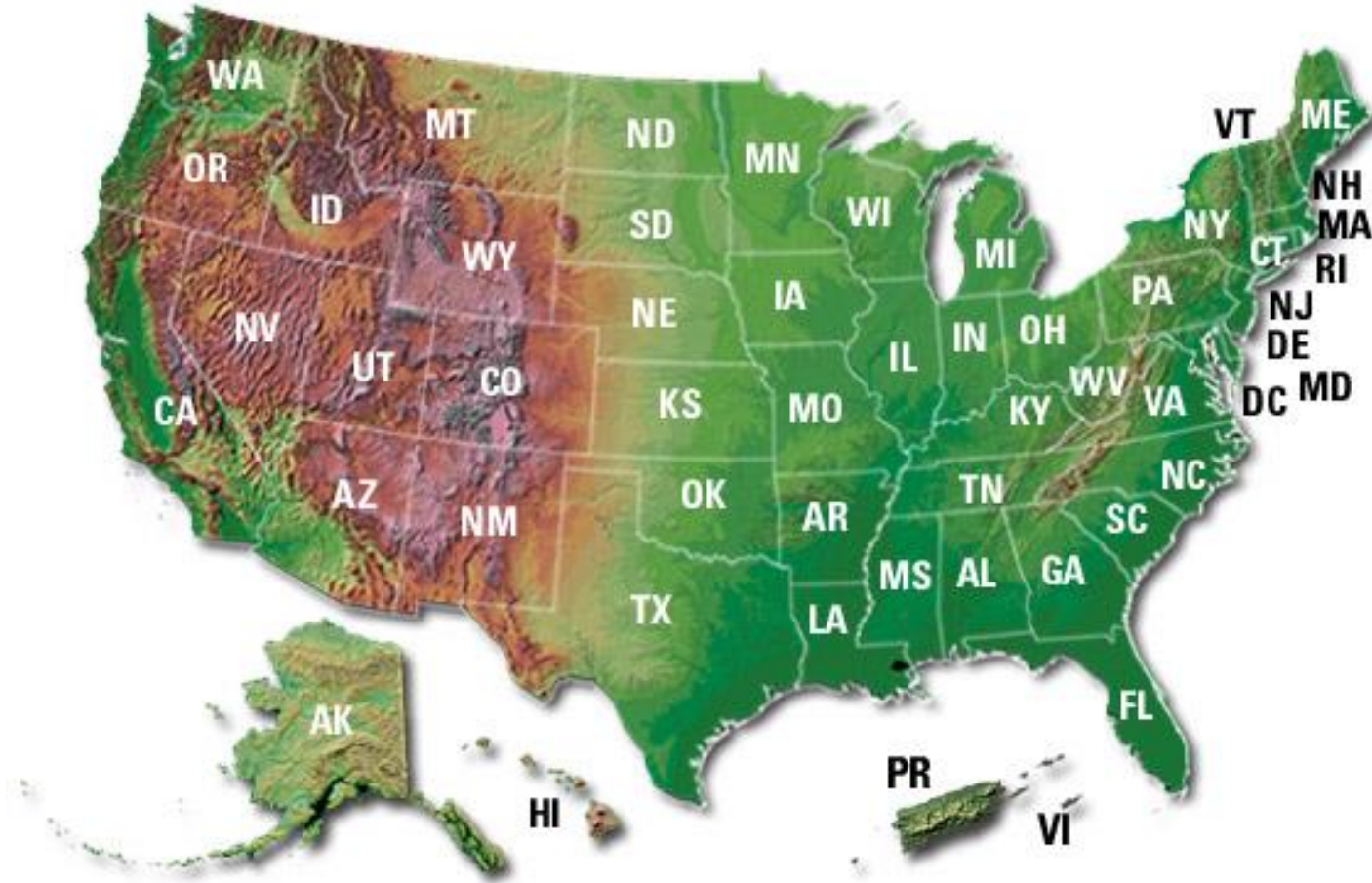
**Select chat recipient**

**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

# Guest Faculty

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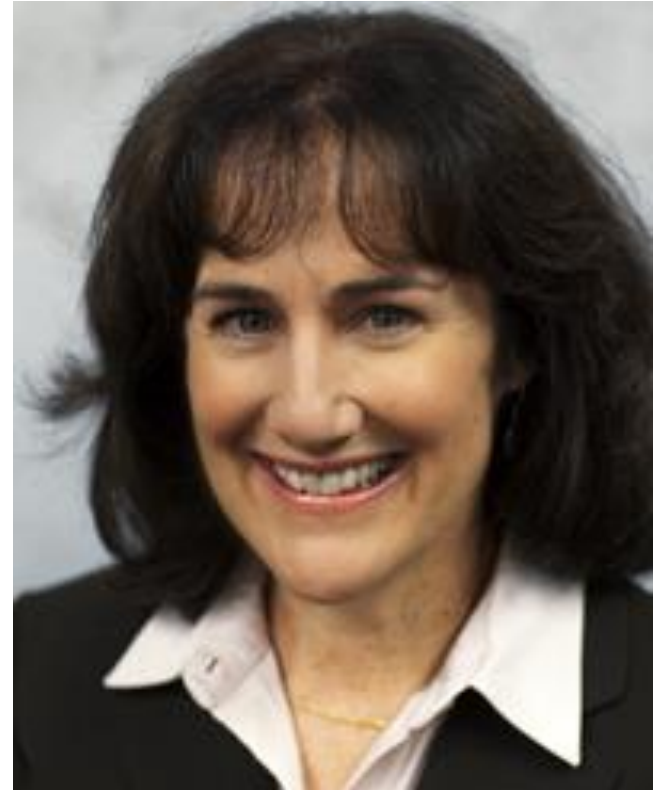
- **Ronnie Genser**, founding president of Bereavement Navigators, Atlanta, GA offering programs, resources, and tools to community groups and congregations.



# Guest Faculty

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- **Dr. Eileen O'Shea,**  
DNP, APRN, PCNS-BC,  
executive director of the  
Kanarek Center for  
Palliative Care Nursing  
Center at the Egan  
School of Nursing at  
Fairfield University



# What we hope you will take away

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- A sense of confidence that you have the information and tools you need to bring this work to your congregation or reach into faith communities in your area
- A sense of connection to larger community of committed people who are doing the work of culture change
- A sense of support that The Conversation Project is here to help you succeed



# Agenda

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- Burning Questions
- Review of Change Ideas
- Inquiries and Reports from the Field
- FAQs

# Burning Questions

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- If you have a question that arose out of the content from last week on programming, please enter it into the chat and we will aim to weave answers into tonight's presentation.

# Six Reasons

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1. Existing communities - shared values
2. Encouraging more compassion and less fear
3. Story-telling communities
4. Planting seeds of cultural change
5. They like to eat together!
6. Positioned to reach and support people with serious illness, their families and clinicians

# Action for Change

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

# “What Matters Most”

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- We are working to shift the conversation in the culture and among health care providers from what’s the matter *with* you—to what matters **TO** you
- To articulate what matters, we need spaces for reflecting on our values, beliefs, traditions and practices related to illness, aging, dying, and death
- Keeping the focus on how might you live the best life possible every day—not only technical medical interventions



# Change Ideas for Congregations

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Thinking about actions that might lead to change (more conversations) in three pockets of work

- ✓ **Sermons**
- ✓ **Pastoral Care**
- ✓ **Programming**

# Why Sermons Matter

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- Sermons are designed to create change
  - Thinking
  - Feeling
  - Acting
  - In People, Institutions, and Society
- Reach people in a familiar setting
- People have an opportunity to circle back, have conversations, gain support or clarity

# conversation sabbath

Oct. 27 – Nov. 5 | #ConvoSabbath

**Register for Conversation Sabbath on line at  
[theconversationproject.org/faith/](http://theconversationproject.org/faith/)**



# Pastoral Care

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- Normalizing and modeling that it is safe to enter into a conversation about end of life wishes at different places along the wellness-illness spectrum
- Preparing clergy and lay leaders by beginning with their own reflection and sharing process
- Providing up-to-date resources in print or linked online (e.g. state Health Care Proxy forms, Starter Kits, local hospice information)

# Programming

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- Assess your congregations needs, desires, and resources, including expertise, time, space in the schedule, money
- The Conversation Project's free Starter Kit is a ready-to-use format for a workshop. Consider doing a follow up session with the same group for accountability and evaluation: did anything happen as a result of the workshop?
- Start with a small test with a receptive group
- Ideas from the wider TCP community (new resources on website)



# Stories from the field

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- To respond to a frequently asked question: How to engage your clergy leader
  - Internal request: you are a member of the congregation
  - External request: community based, health care, etc.

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# Guest Faculty

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# Eileen and Ronnie

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# Q & A

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- Any questions?



# It can be a long runway

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- Not everyone is as ready as you are to champion talking about end-of-life wishes or advance care planning.
- You may get frustrated by the amount of time it takes to set up meetings, do an interest survey, practice leading a Conversation Starter Kit Workshop, get on the events calendar, etc.
- You are not alone. Be patient. Be persistent.
- “It took some time to get this important and healing work off the ground, but it was worth it. People are giving their loved ones the gift of knowing what matters most.”

# Get Ready, Get Set, GO!

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- What can you do by next Tuesday?
- Join The Conversation Project monthly calls, third Wednesday, 3-4:00 pm Eastern
- Register your congregation for Conversation Sabbath, Oct. 26-Nov. 4
- Watch the website for resource updates
- Let us know how you are doing!
- Interest in a Facebook page for faith communities? A follow up call in 5 months?

# Webinar Archive

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The webinar series will be available on line at [www.theconversationproject.org/faith/](http://www.theconversationproject.org/faith/)

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

AND, we will be sending a follow up email and survey: PLEASE give us your feedback on how we can improve. Fewer, longer sessions? Time of day? Different platform (like Zoom where you can see each other and maybe have breakout conversations with one another)?

THANK YOU for your commitment and service!

# Closing Quote

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Cultivating a subtle day-to-day awareness of the reality of our mortality is a profound spiritual practice. To engage in conversations about what matters most to us about living—and dying—is a gift we give our loved ones...and ourselves. It is one of the best ways to insure that we will not leave others in the dark and that our wishes for care will be respected.

# A Benediction

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Keep awake!

Rest deeply in your faith.

Be courageous.

Be strong.

And let all that you do be done in love.