

Conversations About ...

“ Establishing a Culture of Harmony in the Presence of Dissonance “

Abstract

Developing A Community Embracing Its Diversity:

This workshop provides a process for creating sustainable harmony in communities populated by a variety of cultural, social, ethnic and racial subsets. As population concentrations change, new cultural influences enter neighborhoods and often affect the nature and intrinsic balance of those particular neighborhoods. When differences enter the picture, how does a community find the harmony it needs?

The workshop discusses the nature of community, factors resulting in a lack of harmony, and restorative principles which help merge diverse populations into a consensus-building community. The goal is to achieve a greater volume and clarity for all voices of the community, such that a common ground for community planning and outcomes is achieved, along with an agreed code of behavior and quality of life.

Finally, the training provides a restorative justice method for communities to use in “Establishing a Culture of Harmony in the Presence of Dissonance” and, redirecting “neighbors not being neighborly,” through a Community Peacemaking process.

Attendees learn to acquire, refresh or alter their skills-set in community building and activism. Through this training they will be able to assess their views in sensing the natural divides of a community. Attendees will be given new ways to rethink how to address those divides and their needs in order to create a culture of harmony and inclusive forward-looking policies.

This program includes an element which assists with municipal initiatives where this model can be implemented as public-policy.

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PRESENTER

James A Termotto, Sr.

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As an independent professional advisor, Jim consults with government and non-government agencies, institutions and firms on ethical and cultural issues related to their policy-making and strategic action plans. His contract work includes identifying the root and nature of specific social and civic problems, assessing the factors which promulgate those problems, proposing solutions that meet relative cultural differences, and creating ethical and lawful action plans for municipal bureaus, police services, institutions and, profit and nonprofit entities. Creating community peacemaking initiatives, and advocating for implementation of community restorative justice programs are significant parts of Jim's current world view. Working on these programs has resulted in his lecture series "Establishing a Culture of Harmony in the Presence of Dissonance," which presents and promotes an Ethics of Right-Relations for community diversity and peacemaking. These lectures are presented at professional conferences and universities in USA, Canada, UK, and across Europe. In addition to his lectures at local colleges, faith communities, and community groups, Jim is an ethics instructor at a continuing education institute, teaching courses in social and professional ethics, and restorative justice. He is a conflict resolution facilitator registered with Restorative Justice Society USA, and a Certified Restorative Justice Peacemaker with a Rochester New York Police Department Family Services program. There, he facilitates Restorative Justice resolutions to confrontations in the City of Rochester public school system. He is a North American member of Restorative Justice Council, and Conflict Research Society - both in United Kingdom; and, of National Conference on Restorative Justice USA. Jim holds Master degrees in ethics and critical thought from Queen's University, Kingston Ontario Canada, and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester New York USA.