

2019 Synod of the Trinity Regional Connection for Partnership and Networking

WHAT: According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 36 hate-related groups in Pennsylvania and 41 more in West Virginia and Ohio. They are a quantifiable presence in our Synod. But beyond the groups, hate behavior is growing across the country as it finds its way into public commentary and actions. It shows itself through these organized groups as well as through individuals – and even some in our pews.

How can we shine the light of faith on these behaviors and raise awareness in our congregations that leads to engagement? Too often, we act as if not participating in “hate” is our best option for addressing the behavior. It is not.



WHEN:

Northwest Region: Wednesday, May 29 (Register by Wednesday, May 22)

Crestfield Camp and Conference Center | 195 Taggart Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Southwest Region: Thursday, May 30 (Register by Wednesday, May 22)

Jumonville Christian Camp and Retreat Center | 887 Jumonville Road, Hopwood, PA 15445

Central Region: Monday, June 3 (Register by Wednesday, May 29)

Highland United Presbyterian Church | 11 Church Road, Newport, PA 17074

East Region: Wednesday, June 5 (Register by Wednesday, May 29)

First Presbyterian Church | 3231 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104

WHO: We would like to see up to eight people from each presbytery. Synod Commissioners, Presbytery Moderators, Presbytery Leaders (Executives and/or Stated Clerks) and those who embrace the importance of this concern through work they already do are among those whom we would like to see. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FILL YOUR TEAM AS YOU SEE FIT. Synod Commissioners are being asked to check in with their Presbytery Leader about getting this team together. Presbytery Leaders, please make sure that you or someone in your office is responsible for developing and registering your team by the deadlines listed above.

Note: If your presbytery wants to bring a couple more folks, they can! Just let us know and we'll make room. Suggested participants are just that; there may be some who are passionate who should be there — bring them!

Registration

SIGN UP HERE: <http://bit.ly/19syntrinreg>. Follow directions at the top of the spreadsheet. Contact Catherine Gray (717-737-0421 or cgray@syntrinity.org) if you have any questions.

Schedule

9:30 a.m. – Registration

10 a.m. – Welcome!

Connecting with our Faith

10:25 a.m. – A Look Inside the Reality of Hate (part I)

An experiential look at what is going on “out there.” (Selections: Hate in America video)

11 a.m. – Break

11:10 a.m. – A Look Inside the Reality of Hate (part II)

Ann Van Dyke and Dr. Jim Nolan will allow us to take a deeper dive into hate. Ann was a civil rights investigator and trainer for the PA Human Relations Commission for more than 20 years. Jim teaches courses in the area of crime and social control at the University of West Virginia and worked with the FBI as a unit chief in the Crime Analysis, Research and Development Unit that provided management oversight for the National Hate Crime Data Collection Program.



12:30 p.m. – Lunch

1:15 p.m. – Yes, Hate is Here: Experiences in our Region

Susan Rothenberg (Pittsburgh) and Rachel Schwab (Carlisle) will share their personal connections to hate crimes that were committed in their communities.

1:30 p.m. – How can we, how should we engage?

Two, 20-minute information and conversation group opportunities

1. Belonging, the Lure of Hate Groups
A look at “why” some folks are vulnerable to joining these groups as they seek belonging. What is the charge to faith communities?
2. Not just the KKK: Dealing with groups/people who spawn hate but don’t own it
In our pews and around our communities are those who speak hate or who may participate in groups with a hate message that is underneath the surface. What is our challenge and call?
3. Silence is the Welcome Mat for Hate: Faith and Community Response
Resources from the Southern Poverty Law Center and Not in Our Town websites challenge us to step up with voices and actions that create an alternative to hate behavior, even when it is actively happening. What might some alternatives look like in your area? Who might join you in this work? How does “faith” show up in the alternative?
4. The rhetoric of hate that is present in the culture: How can we live and encourage another way? *As Jesus followers and members of a diverse community, what is our responsibility to call out the incivility around us, especially when it moves into hate speech? Is it enough to simply refrain from such “speak” ourselves?*

2:15 p.m. – Presbytery Groups

What do you see? What do you hear? What are we called to do by faith?

2:50 p.m. – Resource Highlighting

3 p.m. – Closing Litany