

Difficult Conversations as Missional Practice

Three Scenarios for PLT

Scenario One

You are a member of a PLT comprised of five members. You have served for one year and you are willing to serve in the upcoming year. For several months you have become increasingly frustrated, plus having other negative feelings. Your feelings revolve around two members who dominate the conversation and are persuasive in the decisions of the team. Your feelings also revolve around yourself and your hesitation to speak up and change the team dynamics. You would like for new people to serve on the PLT and still keep the number to five. You now sense a need to have, what is for you, a difficult conversation.

Scenario Two

You are the pastor and member of the PLT comprised of five members. You have served for one year and the expectation is that you will serve for two more. You started off with enthusiasm and with many ideas. Now you feel you are carrying more than your fair share of responsibilities. You are becoming more frustrated with yourself and two other team members. You feel they are too casual and nonchalant about their participation on the team. You now sense a need to have, what is for you, a difficult conversation.

Scenario 3

Your best friend at work often uses humor to deflect conversation that needs go deeper. You have noticed that your friend has been coming to work late and at times under the influence of alcohol. You truly care about your friend but are unsure how to get beneath the deflecting humor to have a difficult conversation about their wellbeing.

Assignment:

1. Process, as a team, the three steps in **“Whether to Engage in Difficult Conversations: At-a Glance Guide.”**
2. Assume you have decided to proceed with a “difficult conversation.” Write a script for how you would “begin the conversation.” How would you communicate an open stance and clarity of purpose?