



Metropolitan Association, NY UCC Newsletter

April, 2022

Ministering to the
Metropolitan Association
Churches and Ministers.

CREATIVITY, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT &
COMMUNICATION

EADMIN@METROUCCNYC.ORG
Metrouccnyc.org

Triangulation

Proverbs 6: 16: “These are the six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him.”
19: “A lying witness who testifies falsely, and one who sows discord in a family.”

One of the members of your church comes to you and tells you she doesn't like the way the hybrid worship services are handled. The digital minister is not attentive to the people on zoom, she says. You immediately get on the phone with another member who is always in the church building,

and tell her about the conversation.

A congregant comes to you to complain that member #1 has been drinking too much. You ask her if she's expressed her concern to the member. She replies, “NO! That's your job.” Is it?

Folks, we've got work to do. God's work to do. This is not how we get it done, talking about each other behind each other's backs. We don't earn points in heaven for collecting more “dirt” on others.

Open, honest communication. That's how it's done. It's the

most efficient way to get the work done.

It may not be as much fun as turning one person (or group of people) against another. It may not satisfy your desire to be in the “in” crowd (the ones with the most damaging information on or power over the “others”).

But it is prescribed in the Bible. Direct communication.

Matthew 18: 15: “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with

you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

It's difficult to express your concerns directly to the person or persons about whom you have concerns, but, trust me, it's the only method through which change occurs.

Ah, but is it change you desire? Ask yourself. If the answer is that you don't really want to change the situation, keep triangulating. Keep talking amongst yourselves about someone else.

It's not easy to say, "Why don't you take your concerns **directly** to the digital minister?"

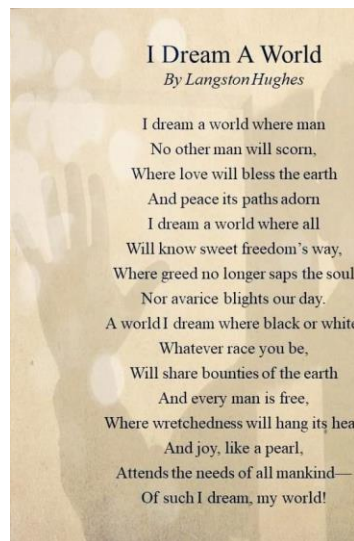
It's hard to find the words for, "I am concerned that you've been drinking quite often lately. Want to talk about what's going on?"

How about, "I felt the way you handled that situation with the organization was kind of a power over move. Can we brainstorm a different way of dealing with it?"

Or, "You don't like the way she handled that conflict? Have you told her? You should."

Direct communication. Try it. You'll get used to it. It is Biblical.

Ruth M. Shaffer, Ph.D., M.Div., Member, Metropolitan Association Board of Directors.



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PLEASE COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE ASSOCIATION BOARD LEADERSHIP.

CONTACT INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT METROUCCNYC.ORG

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CAN BE REACHED AT EADMIN@METROUCCNYC

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*REV. DR. NOEL VANEK (o)
Community Church of the Pelhams

Genocide is biblical.
Loving your enemy is biblical.
BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE
Slavery is biblical.
Chainbreaking is biblical.
BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE
Patriarchy is biblical.
Counter-cultural elevation of women is biblical.
BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE
Retributive violence is biblical.
Grace-filled restoration is biblical.
BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE
Segregation is biblical.
Unity is biblical.
BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE
Christ transforms, not the Bible. *perdu*
Be wary of those who know one but not the other

**UPCOMING METRO
EVENTS:**

**THE ASSOCIATION
SPRING MEETING** will
feature worship with
Broadway UCC, A 30
Minute talk back with
Rev Michael Piazza,
announcement OF
THE feline and canine
courts of the
Association, a session
on disaster
preparedness, the
business of the

**Association will
include election of the
nominations slate,
announcement of the
increased dues for
churches, and
reception of the
reports of the
Association and Board
Committees.**

PLEASE NOTE

**THE proposed
BYLAWS REVISIONS
WILL BE POSTPONED
AS WE SEEK TO
MAKE ADDITIOINAL
CHANGES TO
REFLECT A
CHANGING CHURCH
LANDSCAPE.**

Register here:
[tiny.cc/metrospringmeeti
ng](http://tiny.cc/metrospringmeeti
ng)

Registration fee is \$45

You can pay
electronically here:
tiny.cc/MetroNyPay

***The ASSOCIATION IS
RAISING MONEY FOR
AFRICANS IN
UKRAINE WHO ARE
FACING BLATANT
RACISM IN
BORDERING
COUNTRIES. ALL
DONATIONS WILL GO
TO BLACK WOMEN
FOR BLACK LIVES
WHO IS RAISING
FUNDS FOR THIS
IMPORTANT CAUSE.***

**PLEASE GIVE AS YOU
CAN BY MAKING
PAYMENT HERE:**

[Donation
\(eservicepayments.c
om\)](http://eservicepayments.c
om)

**THE METRO
ASSOCIATION
PARTNERS WITH
HOLLIS AVENUE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH AND ITS
FOOD PANTRY TO
FEED THOUSANDS!**



If you, a family member
or congregant need help
with food please contact
Hollis Avenue
Congregational Church,
Rev. Jerry Greene,
Senior Pastor 211-04
Hollis Avenue, Queens
Village 11429.

**Hours of operation:
8am-11am: The Food
Pantry is open every
Tuesday. If you have
special needs or an
immediate need
contact James
Thomas at 516-528-
2422. If your church
wants food from the
pantry contact ED Rev.
Kris Watson at
[Eadmin@metrouccnyc
.org](mailto:Eadmin@metrouccnyc
.org)**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Special thanks to all who make donations to the Association! We appreciate your financial support and pledge to use your gifts to the building of the beloved community!

Divine Love, flowing through us blesses and increases all that we give, all that we have and all that we receive.



SOW A SEED INTO THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION TODAY.

YOUR DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE. MAKE DONATIONS [HERE](#):

[Donation](#)
[\(eservicepayments.com\)](#)

#METROSTRONG: Our Association is following Christ, empowering our churches to change the world.

We are committed to be communities of justice and extravagant hospitality that are transformed by God's love.

PLEASE NOTE:

Metro 2022 Dues statements will be sent to all churches electronically no later than May 15, 2022. Due to increased costs of EVERYTHING, the Association is compelled to raise our per capita dues this year. **The dues have increased \$2.00 to \$14.00 per person.**

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The Metro Association is no longer collecting the \$2.00 per capita dues for the New York conference assessment. Statements sent to churches later this year will reflect only the dues payable to the Metropolitan Association. Please send your per capita assessment directly to the New York Conference going forward.

PLEASE VISIT AND LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HAPPENINGS IN THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION!

Spread the news of all that Metro Association is offering to its members, churches, and ministers!

Share this newsletter with your congregation!

Reach out to us to see how you can get involved and volunteer your time talent and treasure!

Do you have a bright idea or project for us to engage in? Develop the idea and share it by emailing our Executive Director at eadmin@metronyucc.org

Does your church need pulpit supply? We have a diversity of ministers willing and able to help. Please reach out to eadmin@metronyucc.org or call Rev. Kris Watson on her cell at 646-523-1936.



**ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL
CHURCH 152 EAST 34TH ST.
NYC**

Other events of interest:

**New York State Sexual
Harassment Prevention
Training Webinars
You can take this training any
time during the year**

charlaine@prcli.org

[Tuesday, April 26, 2022](#)

3:00 - 4:30 PM Eastern

[Wednesday, May 11, 2022](#)

10:00 - 11:30 AM Eastern

[Wednesday, June 15, 2022](#)

10:00 - 11:30 AM Eastern

