



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Cultural Competency in Congregational Leadership Video Series

Video Title: PREACHING

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### **Pastors and Pastoral Team Members**

- How do you exegete (interpret the needs and context of) your congregation in addition to exegeting your scripture passage?
- When crafting your sermons, what resources do you consult that might assist you in expanding your and your congregation's cultural awareness? What are some practical strategies you have or can implement for increasing your and your congregation's cultural competency?
- What biblical texts might you choose to preach from to address with cultural sensitivity and compassion the traumatization that some congregants bring with them to worship?
- Pastor Marlesh stated that sermons sometimes can hurt listeners more than help them. Have you ever experienced pain personally (either in hearing a sermon or preaching a sermon)? Have you experienced that pain in relationship to cultural or language differences? What do you see as the dangers or costs of ignoring your own cultural competency in preaching?

### **Lay Leaders and Church Boards**

- In your congregation, what would be the benefits and/or the pitfalls of your ministers embracing culturally aware preaching?

- In what areas do you encourage and equip leadership to further develop and enhance cultural competence, and what effective strategies have you used to address and learn from cultural missteps when they occur?
- What opportunities do you see to connect with and attract new people to your congregation by emphasizing culturally competent preaching?

## Church Members

- How much have you experienced preaching by one who is from a culture or language different than yours?
- What has your experience been in hearing those sermons? Were you excited or anxious? What did you feel? Were your expectations challenged?
- What have you learned about yourself when you have heard someone from a culture or language different than yours preach?
- Do you think you would be comfortable regularly worshipping in a church whose cultural experiences differed from your own?
- Do the sermons in your church speak to the experiences of others who may differ from you in culture and life experience and encourage them?

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