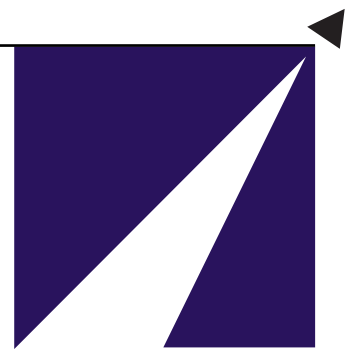


ReVision



P R O J E C T

YES

re (ri) *n.* 1. anew, again **vision** (v'zh 'ən) *n.* 1. the manner in which one sees or conceives of something.

Making our world safe for ALL youth

Breakthrough Communication Course for Episcopal Clergy

By Martha Fugate

Having had the honor of working as the communication consultant for Episcopal Bishop James Ottley in dialogues with African American, Haitian and Hispanic clergy, I was excited to receive a request from Bishop Leo Frade to conduct a *Communication Solutions* course for his leadership team. The bishops, family members, and diocesan staff attended



Bishop Leo Frade and Martha Fugate.

the two-day course at Trinity Cathedral. As each person said why they were there, it became apparent they wanted more than anything to

bring comfort and healing where people were in pain. They had clearly witnessed a lot of pain, upset, anger, and frustration within the church over the confirmation of Bishop Gene Robinson, a gay man.

Everyone had similar questions – how do you help when you feel helpless, how do you make a difference when you abhor confrontation and feel surrounded by controversy and of course, the age-old question, how can I be more tolerant of the intolerant?

“Excellent... I experienced the art of listening, the importance of ownership of what is heard as well as what is said.”

- Rev. Donald Sullivan

This outstanding team demonstrated their commitment to leadership by taking on new ways of communicating, working diligently on the unfamiliar, and accepting each challenge presented. Their willingness to reach and



Over 30 clergy and archdiocese attended the *Communication Solutions* course.

“If I had known this before, many things I have done during my years of ministry, I would have handled differently. I recommend this course to all new clergy and lay leaders.”

- Rev. Fritz Bazin

reveal new levels of authenticity frequently left no dry eyes in the room.

It takes a very big person to set aside their own expertise and become a novice in a new game, all the while playing at 100%. Not only has the Episcopal Church set a new mark of leadership for all faiths, so has Bishop Leo Frade's leadership team for the South Florida Diocese.



Susan and Rev. Michael Hartney.

It was a privilege to work with these wonderful leaders and we're proud to be in partnership with them, using powerful communication for reconciliation and healing.



Martha Fugate with Rev. Jean Ricco-Gay.

“Exactly what I needed to learn in order to work into and live the vision of my responsibility.”

- Jackie Fernandez

Visit www.projectyes.org to access upcoming speaking engagements, educational workshops, and online donations.

Project YES Community Forum
Thursday, February 12, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Everyone's invited!

Project YES Courses Awarded TEC Accreditation

The Division of Student/Career Services of Dade County Public Schools asked Project YES to host a network meeting for their counselors and to give them a preview of our *Gender Continuum* workshop. Our work has led us to the inescapable conclusion that gender, more so than orientation, is the primary culprit responsible for harassment of our youth.

The workshop previewed the consequences not conforming to gender expectations, cultural norms around gender, and the assumptions that keep them in motion. The latest research was presented, encompassing historical, scientific, legal, spiritual and academic perspectives, giving school counselors an eye-opening view of this phenomenon.

Afterwards, education specialist Donna Griffin announced that the Division of Student/Career Services has accredited Project YES workshops for TEC (Teacher Education Credit) Master Plan Points through the division.

We thank Deborah Montilla, the new administrative director, Donna Griffin, and Dr. Monique Jimenez, for their partnership.

“We’ve looked across the country for this information and have not found it put together in one accessible workshop.”

- Donna Griffin, Education Specialist



Joseph Zolobczuk, Education Coordinator, with counselors.

Responding to Gender

Miami Bridge in Homestead asked Project YES to provide educational workshops on gender to their youth caseworkers. They recognized a new level of expression in youth culture around gender issues and responded by requesting training for their staff.

Learning about intersex and transgender topics sparked new conversations and terrific dialogue. We saw the commitment of these professionals to the youth in their care and were impressed with the extra effort they took to broaden their understanding and obtain new information.



Over 40 counselors attended the gender preview.

Bishop Ottley Joins Dialogue

Fr. Gabe Sinisi from St. Christopher’s Church invited Project YES to facilitate a dialogue with community members and discuss changes and challenges for all members of the Episcopal faith. Bishop Ottley, associate bishop for the SE Diocese, was a special guest that day and spoke eloquently about the importance of dialogue and mutual respect for all opinions held by Episcopal faithful.



Bob Oldakowski, Mayor of Key Biscayne, Martha Fugate, Director of Project YES, Bishop James Ottley, and Fr. Gabe Sinisi.

If you are interested in having a dialogue on this topic in your place of worship, please contact Project YES at **305-663-7795**.



Youth leaders in action at Miami Bridge.

Welcome, New Board Chair



Tim Dugan.

Tim Dugan began as a volunteer speaker for Project YES, completing the *Communication Solutions* course in 2001. He served as a

workshop leader and office volunteer before joining the board in 2002. His creative leadership has been demonstrated in every area of our organization and we are grateful

for his continued commitment at his new position of Chair of the board of directors at Project YES. He is a full time Professor of Marketing at FIU’s Business School and a host parent with his partner Meredith Birrittella to exchange student, Sebastian Herrmann, from Germany. Tim and Meredith are expecting a child of their own, due in August.

“I want my work to contribute to a world where all youth are safe.”

- Tim Dugan, Project YES Board Chair

The Gift of Music



Eva Leivas-Andino and Steven Franz.

Befitting the holiday season, an unexpected present arrived at our doorstep, the gift of music. It came from Steven Franz, a talented vocalist and musician in South Florida. Finding us on the Internet and inspired by our mission, he wrote and recorded a song and then donated it to Project YES.

In the song "Can't We Say Yes," Franz eloquently captures the plight of youth harassed for orientation and gender expression who ultimately find the inner strength to overcome their fears.

You can hear Franz’s song online at www.projectyes.org/music.

Kiaora Society Creating Possibilities

Carmen & Cali Garcia-Velez hosted Project YES' Winter Kiaora event in their home, thanking Kiaora Society members for their incredible support and welcoming new friends.

Carlos Garcia-Velez & Dr. W. Kent Davis joined as **Mentors** that night. We also welcome new **Mentors, Dr. Isabel Gomez-Bassols** and her son **Eric Vasallo**, as well as **Ellen L. Leesfield & Pamela Peny**.



Carmen Garcia-Velez, Eva Leivas-Andino, Martha Fugate, Cali Garcia-Velez, Ana Bandana, and Tim Dugan.

Longtime friends and Kiaora **Visionaries, Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez**, renewed their support and doubled the impact of their giving by a inspiring response to our *Challenge Match*. We wish to recognize the leadership and commitment of our long time friend and newest **Visionary** member, **Lang Baumgarten**.

We thank **Champions, Carol & Ed Williamson**, for their ongoing commitment and **Leaders, Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro** for their continuing support.

We are extremely grateful to our loyal supporters **Scott Dansky & John Dawson, Joseph F. Fitzgerald & Kenneth G. Rau, James C. Hanrahan, Joseph M. Kraus, Edward McIntyre & Yoyo Corvaia, Richard Milstein & Eric Hankin, Glenn L. Minton & Eddie Eskdale, Marty Schildhouse, Martin Smith, Rev. Marta S. Weeks** and **Laura White** all renewing as Kiaora **Mentors**.

We are very grateful for our new corporate supporter, **Abbot Laboratories** and the recent grant award from the **Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation**, a long time friend of Project YES.

We were moved by a special donation made by **Dr. Karen Raben** to honor the leadership of Joseph Zolobczuk, the Education Coordinator of Project YES. "Dr. Raben has always been one of my biggest role models. For her to recognize me is really an honor," says Zolobczuk.

Empowering Speakers Near and Far

Participants from across the United States – Dallas, New York, San Francisco, West Palm Beach, and Fort Lauderdale – including nurses, professors, pharmacists, clinical psychologists, actors, clergy, and youth, experienced our *Communication Solutions* course this December.



Future leaders at Project YES.

"It was great to meet ministers from my community and see clergy from other denominations all learning to communicate about this. It's amazing to find a way we can all work on something universal, which is saving kids' lives. Everyone doesn't have to agree and it works!"

- Paul Scarpitta,
Twenty Somethings Board Member

"I found the workshop to be authentic, intimate and powerful. The experiential component of the workshop challenged us to reflect on our own experiences and biases. Moreover, it provided the necessary skills to convey a positive message regardless of the circumstances."

- Tania Diaz,

Clinical Psychologist & Professor



Francisco Serrano, Dave Hanson and Paulo Andino with Martha Fugate.

Episcopal Foundation Funds Dialogue

For the second year, Project YES attended a luncheon honoring those organizations funded by the South East Florida Episcopal Foundation. We thank Charlie Ring of the Foundation, all its directors and Bishop Leo Frade of the South East Florida Episcopal Diocese for their support and commitment to the work of Project YES.



Bishop Leo Frade, Eva Leivas-Andino and Charlie Ring.

Kiaora Society

Kiaora Society members donate \$1,000 or more to Project YES annually.



Visionary

\$10,000 or more

Lang Baumgarten
Tim Dugan & Meredith Birrittella
Jonathan & Tina Kislak
Jonathan Lewis
Ed McAmis & Gerson Gonzalez
Peter Pilotti & Joseph Rodano

Champion

\$5,000 or more

Greg Baldwin & Jose Castro
Stephen E. Herbits
Carol & Ed Williamson

Leader

\$2,500 or more

Connie Barden & Martha Fugate
Paula Black
Douglas DeBoer & Howard Kurzweil
Paula Morabito & Maria M. Yip
Robert Oldakowski & Luis Mendoza
Pink Palm Company
Dennis Rodrigues
Kevin Veilleux

Mentor

\$1,000 or more

Nancy Allen
Gary Bremen & Roger Boone
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City National Bank of Florida & the Abess Family
Cathy L. Cline
Scott Dansky & John Dawson
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Victor Garcia & Tim Wagoner
Cali Garcia-Velez
Carlos Garcia-Velez & W. Kent Davis
Randall R. Gluss
Arlene Gómez & José Rodriguez
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Our Vision

A community in which gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and all youth develop as healthy individuals free of suicide, violence and discrimination.

Our Mission

To prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth by initiating dialogue, providing education and creating support systems.

Did You Know?

Every recent publicized school shooting reveals that perpetrators were bullied with anti-gay epithets. Learn more:



projectyes.org/research

Accreditation



Florida State Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling



TEC-Accredited by the Dade-Monroe Teacher Education Center for Master Plan Points (MPP)

McMillan Parents Learn About Gender

Their comments illustrated the helplessness felt by parents and educators trying to provide a safe learning environment for students. The hallway culture of reaction and retaliation is out of control, and leaves everyone feeling vulnerable. Both PTSA and school faculty are working on follow up presentations with Project YES.

Problems faced by every school in America, such as school violence, harassment, bullying, and suicide attempts, become amplified in an environment where attendance is 140% over capacity. Invited by school guidance counselors, Eva Leivas-Andino joined parents for a PTSA dialogue at McMillan Middle School, which is overflowing with more than 1,700 students.

After listening to Eva, parents quickly opened up and began to talk about their need for education on orientation and gender. One parent said, "My children come home and ask questions about homosexuality. They see it on TV. We need to know how to respond appropriately." Another parent lamented, "I tried to teach my children not to respond with violence, but then my son said "Mom, if I don't defend myself when I'm teased, I won't survive another day in school."



Eva Leivas-Andino in dialogue with parents.

Project YES offers accredited workshops available to students, parents, and professionals. Visit www.projectyes.org for upcoming course dates and times.



Students Ask Tough Questions

Professor Glenda Belote invited Rajindra Narinesingh and Joseph Zolobczuk of Project YES to speak to her undergraduate class at Florida International University. The presentation lasted an hour and half and could have gone on much longer.

Transgender is a hot topic in classrooms, evidenced by increasing references in pop culture and television. Students are requesting more opportunities to engage in academic discussions about transgender.



FIU students engage in discussion.

Professor Anagloria Mora requested two speakers for her curious and insightful class at Miami-Dade College. Prof. Rebecca Sanchez also hosted a speaker for her *Diverse Populations* class at MDC Wolfson.



MDC students learn to distinguish orientation from gender.