



A DIALOGUE

Roe v. Wade: Who remembers what the ruling actually says?

This momentous 1973 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court reshaped political discourse on the subject of abortion. In sifting through all of the clamor raised by people on both sides of the issue, it's helpful to examine carefully the words of the ruling itself.

Decided January 22, 1973, *Roe v. Wade* was a case of the U.S. Supreme Court that resulted in a landmark judicial opinion about privacy and abortion in the United States. The alias "Jane Roe" was used for Norma McCorvey, on whose behalf the suit was originally filed, alleging that the abortion law in Texas violated her constitutional rights and the rights of other women. The defendant was the district attorney of Dallas County, Texas, Henry B. Wade.

According to the *Roe* decision, most laws against abortion violated a constitutional right to privacy under the due-process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision overturned all state and federal laws outlawing or restricting abortion that were inconsistent with its holdings.

The central holding of *Roe v. Wade* was that abortions are permissible for any reason a woman chooses, up until the "point at which the fetus becomes 'viable,' that is, potentially able to live outside the mother's womb, albeit with artificial aid." Viability is usually placed at about seven months (28 weeks) but may occur earlier, even at 24 weeks. The Court also held that abortion after viability must be available when needed to protect a woman's health, which the Court defined broadly.

The *Roe v. Wade* decision prompted a national debate that continues to this day about whether and to what extent abortion should be illegal, about who should decide whether or not it is illegal, about the methods used by the Supreme Court in constitutional adju-
Please see DIALOGUE, p. 6



BASIC TOOLS || PART SEVEN
{COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY}

Studying scripture using our basic Kaleidoscope tools

By Eric H. F. Law

Combining the two basic tools used by the Kaleidoscope Institute—Respectful Communication Guidelines and Mutual Invitation (see the last six newsletters), we can create a small-group Bible reflection process that will build community by including everyone in the group. This process involves listening to the same biblical text three times. After each reading, participants are invited to share their reflection on a specific question/topic using Mutual Invitation. The first and the last topics are always the same:

After the first reading: Capture a word, a phrase or an image

After the third reading: What does God invite you to do, change or be through this passage? *Please see BIBLE STUDY, p. 2*

Bible Study: Mutual Invitation is new angle

Continued from page 1

The reflection question for the second reading is designed by the facilitator and is different every time.

The process ends with the Circle Prayer, which can also be used in other setting.

The process of reading the text three times has been around for quite some time. When I learned it, it was called "community-based Bible study" or "African Bible study." *Lectio divina* is another name for it. The innovation that I have added to this basic process is the use of Mutual Invitation for the sharing process and the variation allowed for in the second reflection question.

You can download the description of the Community Bible Study from our website (http://www.ladiocese.org/ki/bible-study_process.html). You can also find the full description of the process in Appendix C of *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb* by Eric H. F. Law.

To conclude this first of three articles on the Community Bible Study, I would like to share a letter from a participant of the Kaleidoscope Summer Training Institute in 2006. He used the Community Study as the principal tool to start a new church.

Hi, Eric,

I wanted to let you know how things

are going with the church start here in Birmingham and how instrumental your work has been. We've decided to call ourselves the Community Church without Walls because we don't have a building; we worship in houses. We have 2 house churches where we share a meal, do Bible study, pray for each other, and take Communion. The Bible study format is [the Community Bible Study as used by the Kaleidoscope Institute], and it has been one of the most empowering and transformative experiences for our folks.

Here in the inner city, most people are never asked for their opinion about mundane matters, much less spiritual. Virtually all of their experiences in church have been with an autocratic preacher who told them what to believe and how to act.

One woman in our church told me, "No one has ever asked my opinion about anything in church before." When someone first comes, they usually pass until they realize that everyone else really does care what they have to say. And before long they began to believe that they do in fact have something of value to contribute. They begin to believe in themselves.

And sooner or later, they begin to believe that God believes in them.

A woman has found healing from drug addiction. I don't know the first thing about drug recovery, but she told me that she has felt such a sense of empowerment and such supportive community, that she has been able to overcome her addiction. Ten people who were unemployed have gotten jobs, 2 homeless people have been able to rent apartments. And most of these things are the result of people being part of a church where their opinion matters, where they feel empowered, and where no one is judged. And [the Community Bible Study] format has done more to create that atmosphere than anything else. If you are ever passing through the deep South, you should stop in Birmingham and see what God is doing in the inner city through your work.

Peace,

R.G. Lyons; The Community Church without Walls, Birmingham, AL

In the next two newsletters, I will discuss some of the specific skills, tools and techniques that will further enhance the basic Community Bible Study process.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2007

Community Bible Study

By Eric H. F. Law

SEPTEMBER 23: *Luke 16:1-13*

✦ What do you learn from this passage about how to measure your faith and wealth?

SEPTEMBER 30: *Luke 16:19-31*

✦ According to this passage, how can you be close to God?

OCTOBER 7: *Luke 17:5-10*

✦ How does Jesus measure good work and faith?

OCTOBER 14: *Luke 17:11-19*

✦ What does this passage say about the relationship between faith and our need for acceptance?

We suggest that you study the Gospel passage one week ahead. For example, for the week of August 6-11, study the text for August 12. This way, the participants will go to church on Sunday having already listened and reflected on the Gospel for that Sunday.

These questions are suggestions only. As a leader of the Community Bible Study process, you need to keep the theme of the biblical text and the context of the participants in mind as you determine what is the most appropriate reflection question for your group.

‘Very enlightening and enjoyable’: High praise for the 2007 Summer Institute

August 9, 2007 began our second annual Summer Training Institute. The institute included three courses: The two basic courses on Fundamental Skills for Building Inclusive Community and Models and Processes for Community Transformation, and an Advanced Course on Designing Inclusive Gatherings. The first two courses had 18 participants; 12 people attended the Advanced course. Participants came from the United Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Roman Catholic churches. They came from the states of Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Texas, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and California. Here are some of their comments from the evaluations:

From Course I: Fundamental Skills for Building Inclusive Community:

✦ This institute has been very enlightening and enjoyable for me! It has been the best workshop that I have gone through to look inside myself, to understand myself better and also understand the other people around me and has presented me ways to develop myself as a whole person

✦ I have had training in most of these previously. But I found new levels of understanding and usefulness through this workshop.



2007 Summer Institute participants at the Cathedral Center in Los Angeles.

✦ To anyone who are thinking about or are presently involved in leadership in today's changing dynamics, I would tell them to go for a unique whole experience that will give them a new skill set and tools

✦ The experience was very eye-opening for me in terms of how people communicate and perceive power. It also made me more comfortable in dealing with facilitating communication in diverse groups

✦ It was fun and a soul searching experience

✦ This has been a blessed experience and a wonder gift. Thank you!

✦ The workshop helped me understand myself and others in a wonderful way and it was so clear. The workshop

was very nurturing. The participants have been wonderful. Eric Law is a wonderful speaker, facilitator, and leader. He's an amazing person, very insightful, very intelligent and has a caring nature.

✦ What a gift to leaders!!

From Course II: Models and Processes for Community Transformation

✦ This is an alternative way to work on inclusiveness from within and below rather than mandated and superficial (external iceberg) which is realistic and transforming

✦ Very enlightening experience that gives us tools and models to use in our own lives and in the community.

✦ The concepts and tools

are the most useful I've seen to bring about transformation

✦ This is a very "hand-on" experience in learning skills to help create inclusive communities that at the same time teaches a personal disciple that I find insightful and transforming

✦ Enlightening. This is something that encourages Gospel living.

✦ An opportunity to become a vehicle for change in every aspect of community and personal relationship

✦ Humbling but hopeful

✦ This is a freeing experience.

✦ Best thing for building multi-culture/multi-ethnic community

✦ Thank you !!! Incredible insight, vision and practical

Kaleidoscope Winter Institute 2008

From Feb. 25–29, learn fundamental skills and ways to transform your community.

Next year's Winter institute consists of 2 courses, held at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul's Retreat Center (840 Echo Park Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90026).

FIRST COURSE

Fundamental Skills for Building Inclusive Community

In a fast-changing and diverse world, what skills do leaders need to practice in order to create a more inclusive environment in which people of diverse backgrounds and experiences are welcome and no one person or group is disadvantaged? In this foundational workshop, the Rev. Eric H. F. Law will guide participants through a practical and spiritual journey toward becoming competent leaders in a diverse changing world.

TOPICS TO EXPLORE:

- ✦ What is Culture and why are there cultural differences?
- ✦ Cultural Differences and their Impacts on our leadership
- ✦ Theological Reflection on multicultural leadership
- ✦ Skill, models and processes for building inclusive community
- ✦ Developing a spirituality for leadership in a diverse, changing world
- ✦ Training Modules I-VII of the Kaleidoscope Institute basic training (See website: www.ladiocese.org/ki)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- ✦ People involved in small group ministries – bible study, youth ministry, adult forums, discussion groups.
- ✦ Chairs of committees and commissions
- ✦ Religious educators
- ✦ People who have read Eric Law's books and want to get a hands-on, in-depth experience in putting the theory, method, spirituality to practice.

FEBRUARY
25–27

Monday at 9 a.m.–Wednesday at noon

\$300 (includes meals beginning Monday through Wednesday lunch at the Retreat Center at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul).

Housing costs at the Retreat Center are \$45 per night.

SECOND COURSE

Model and Processes for Community Transformation

The Rev. Eric H. F. Law will share from his experiences in working intensively with over 300 churches in the U.S. and Canada over the last 10 years. What methods and processes work and what do not work for churches that find themselves in diverse fast-changing communities? He will discuss the impacts of cultural differences, specifically in communication and power perception, on church planting, revitalization, shared facility, cross-racial appointments, and cluster ministry development. How we can enable local churches to analyze their situations (their church culture, local community and social contexts) and move toward faithful and constructive change?

TOPICS TO EXPLORE:

- ✦ Impact of fast-changing community on community redevelopment
 - ✦ Impact of cultural diversity on church revitalization and new church development
 - ✦ Tools to enable local community leaders to analyze their organizational culture, local community and social contexts
 - ✦ A process for faithful transformation
 - ✦ Theological reflection on faithful transformation
- Training Module VIII-X of the Kaleidoscope Institute basic training (See website: www.ladiocese.org/ki)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- ✦ Church leaders interested in church revitalization and congregational development from a multicultural perspective
- ✦ People involved in Interim Ministry
- ✦ Consultant and facilitators for communities in transition
- ✦ People involved in leadership development in local community

FEBRUARY
27–29

Wednesday at noon–Friday at 5 p.m.

\$450 (includes all meals beginning with Wednesday's lunch) at the Retreat Center at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul. Housing costs at

the Retreat Center are \$45 per night.

Kaleidoscope Winter Institute 2008

We recommend that you plan on arriving on Sunday, Feb. 25 and leave on Saturday, March 1. You will want to stay until 5 p.m. on Friday in order for us to cover all the course material.

The program will be more intense than the Summer Institute, without a one-day break in between the two courses. There will be evening classes on Monday and Tuesday. Therefore, do not plan any personal outings on those two nights. The evenings of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are free.

Please inform us as soon as possible via e-mail if you are planning to come to this training at kscopeinstitute@aol.com. We will only hold the event when we have at least 12 participants.

I read *The Wolf Shall Dwell With The Lamb* a number of years ago and while I found it enlightening, I never put anything specific into practice. After attending an Eric Law workshop last fall, I have returned again and again to using 2 specific techniques in a variety of situations. These are the Community Bible Study and the concept of Mutual Invitation. I also gained new understanding of myself and the way I relate and work in groups. That has been helpful. What a gift his workshops are! Bottom-line—I learned more useable, put-into-practice concepts from him than just about any workshop (and that’s been many!!) I have ever attended.”

—RHODA PITTMAN MARKUS
RPM Consulting
(Consultant in Christian Nurture)



⊕ REGISTRATION FORM *Kaleidoscope Winter Institute*

NAME _____ MY CHURCH COMMUNITY _____

MY MINISTRY _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

E-MAIL _____

I would like to register for the Kaleidoscope Winter Institute, February 25–29, 2008

Course I: Fundamental Skills for Building Inclusive Community: Feb. 25-27, 2008 **\$300**

Course II: Model and Processes for Community Transformation: Feb. 27-29, 2008..... **\$300**

I will need overnight accommodations on: (please circle the dates): 2/24 2/25 2/26 2/27 2/28 2/29
 _____ nights x \$45 per night.....\$

Total.....\$

Enclosed is the **registration fee** in the amount of _____ payable to the Kaleidoscope Institute.

Please send completed registration form to: Kaleidoscope Institute, Diocese of Los Angeles, P.O. Box 512164, Los Angeles CA 90051-0164

Dialogue

Continued from page 1

dication, and about the role of religious and moral views in the political sphere. *Roe v. Wade* reshaped national politics, dividing much of the nation into pro-Roe (mostly pro-choice) and anti-Roe (mostly pro-life) camps, and inspiring grassroots activism on both sides.

I have often wondered as I have listened to the arguments from both sides of the debate if people actually know what the *Roe vs. Wade* decision actually says. A dialogue process inviting people to read and reflect on the actual text of the decision of the Supreme Court would be a good beginning in trying to understand this complex and emotional issue.

The dialogue process

1. Read the Respectful Communication Guidelines and invite members of the group to affirm them for their time together:
2. Inform participants that excerpts from the *Roe vs. Wade* Supreme Court decision will be read three times. After each reading, participants will be invited to share their reflections using the Mutual Invitation. If participants have not been introduced to the Mutual Invitation process, describe it clearly.
3. Invite participants to capture a word, a phrase or an image that stood out for them from the document.
4. Invite someone to read the text.
5. Observe a moment of silence to capture a word, a phrase or image that stood out from the document for them.
6. Using Mutual Invitation, invite each person to share his or her word, phrase or image briefly. (This should take no more than 5 minutes.)
7. Invite participants to consider the following question as the text is being read for the second time:
According to this text, on the issue of abortion, what are privacy rights and what are state interests?
8. Invite someone to read the document a second time.
9. Observe a moment of silence to reflect on the question.
10. Using Mutual Invitation, invite each person to share his or his reflection.

Excerpts from Justice Blackmun's ruling

The following are excerpts from Justice Harry Blackmun's ruling on Roe v. Wade, handed down on Jan. 22, 1973.

1. A state criminal abortion statute of the current Texas type, that excepts from criminality only a lifesaving procedure on behalf of the mother, without regard to pregnancy stage and without recognition of the other interests involved, is violative of the due-process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

[a] For the stage prior to approximately the end of the first trimester, the abortion decision and its effectuation must be left to the medical judgment of the pregnant woman's attending physician.

[b] For the stage subsequent to approximately the end of the first trimester, the State, in promoting its interest in the health of the mother, may, if it chooses, regulate the abortion procedure in ways that are reasonably related to maternal health.

[c] For the stage subsequent to viability, the State in promoting its interest in the potentiality of human life may, if it chooses, regulate, and even proscribe, abortion except where it is necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the preservation of the life or health of the mother.

...

This holding, we feel, is consistent with the relative weights of the respective interests involved, . . . The decision leaves the State free to place increasing restrictions on abortion as the period of pregnancy lengthens, so long as those restrictions are tailored to the recognized state interests. The decision vindicates the right of the physician to administer medical treatment according to his professional judgment up to the points where important state interests provide compelling justifications for intervention. Up to those points, the abortion decision in all its aspects is inherently, and primarily, a medical decision, and basic responsibility for it must rest with the physician. If an individual practitioner abuses the privilege of exercising proper medical judgment, the usual remedies, judicial and intra-professional, are available.

11. Invite participants to consider the following question while listening to the document again.

Why is it important to balance privacy rights and state interests in the United States?

12. Observe a moment of silence to reflect on the question.

13. Using Mutual Invitation, invite each person to share his or her reflection.

14. End the session in a circle:

Invite participants to join hands in a circle. Invite each person to mentally complete these sentences:

FOR A NON-RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY:

I am thankful for...

My hopes are...

FOR A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY:

I thank God today...

I ask God today...

The leader will begin by sharing his or her prayers. After he or she has shared, the leader then squeezes the hand of the person to the right. That will be the signal for the next person to share his or her prayers. If the person does not want to share, he or she can simply pass the pulse to the next person. When the pulse comes back to the leader, he or she can end the dialogue with a closing thought, or (for Christian group) start the Lord's Prayer and invite everyone to join in.

Summer: 'Wonderful and insightful' program held

Continued from page 3

tools and training

✦ This is the best workshop experience I have ever had. I felt included. I felt I learned a lot and the teaching style in itself was a learning and growth experience. Thanks! I also feel like I am leaving with something I can actually use for a long time to come.

✦ Wonderful and insightful.

✦ Thanks for a very informative and transforming week!

From Course III:

Advanced Design Work in Facilitating Inclusive Gatherings

✦ I've gained numerous insights / ideas for how to structure a event

✦ Sequencing helped me focus, sort, organize and review my project

✦ Different denominational traditions deeply enriched the experience

✦ Designing Projects and getting feed back from colleagues was wonderful.

✦ I learned that there are other ways to use KI tools and skills that are less explicit and more implicit

✦ I enjoyed bouncing off ideas on colleagues and having the group assist in the areas (blind spots) where I have not thought of.

✦ I've learned to structuring an event/project for flow. I also found Lucky and Eric's comments extremely helpful... they helped me bridge the various contexts from which we come.

✦ This practices of walking through this consulting / planning process was good

✦ Excellent workshop for persons wanting to work in the area of Diversity. And live in a diverse community. The food is always good!!

✦ I can't think of any other place where I can get such helpful perspective on my work in such a supportive environment.

✦ An opportunity to take what I have learned and apply it to a concrete situation

✦ Great stuff!! Thanks

I want to thank the 4 trainers who assisted in the first 2 courses: Christine Munger, Jake Pomeroy, Bill Cruse and Sharon Elmore. Their sharing of their leadership and insights had enriched the experiences of the participants. A special thanks to our Associates who assisted in teaching especially the Advanced Design course: Lucky Altman Lynch and Peter Bechtel. Of course, we want to thank the staff of the Cathedral Center of St. Paul for their wonderful hospitality especially Becky Merwin, the Retreat Center Director. And finally, we want to thank all of you, our readers, who prayed for us during this Summer Institute. Thank you.

If you want to come to our next training Institute, the dates are February 25- March 1, 2008. This will be an intensive program covering the first 2 basic courses. More information will be available soon.

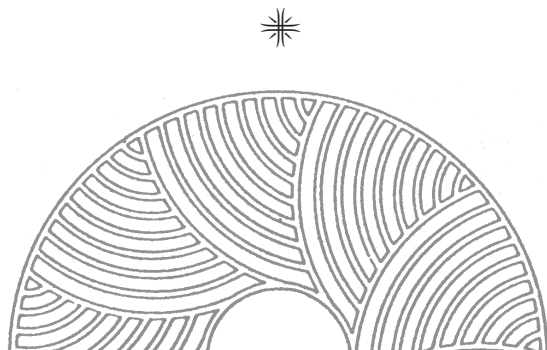
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As you know, we have provided the monthly Kaleidoscope Institute Newsletter since July 2006, and it has been free to all interested recipients.

We are now inviting you to consider offering a donation to support this ministry. We are a non-profit organization and we operate on a small budget. Therefore, your contribution will be greatly appreciated and will enable us to continue to deliver a monthly newsletter to you and others interested in becoming more competent leaders in a diverse, changing world.

We suggest a \$60-\$100 annual donation; however, we are grateful for any amount which is comfortable for you. Please see the donation form on page 8.



Your contribution helps support this newsletter

⊕ CONTRIBUTION FORM *to support the Kaleidoscope Institute's newsletter*

NAME _____ MY CHURCH COMMUNITY _____

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