

Changemakers: A Dynamic Experience for Social Transformation



Organize a One-Day Changemakers Event in Your Area – Here's How

Changemakers – Creating New Responses for New Times is a time to consider how we can address the challenges and possibilities for greater economic, environmental and social justice. Participants will explore ways we can make the needs of our local and global communities more visible, reflect on our responses to those needs and re-imagine how we might take action to make a bigger difference during the next decade and beyond.

The first two Changemakers events were entire weekends. The next step we envision is offering Changemakers in one-day formats that would draw primarily from a regional geographic area, i.e., inviting participants who live no more than a 2 hour drive. The goal would be to recruit between 25 and 50 participants. More would be great, but that size group would provide enough of a critical mass. The schedule for such an event could look something like this, but it's up to local group:

8:00-8:30 - Gathering/registration/light breakfast

8:30-8:50 - Opening Prayer

8:50-9:20 - Sharing stories or experiences of changemaking, expectations/hopes for this day, concerns or questions

9:20-10:15 - Changemakers Challenge: this would be delivered by someone who would be inspirational, visionary, hopeful and challenging. It would probably be a live presentation, but video might be an option. It is preferable, but not necessary, if this person comes from within the local geographic area. A key factor may be cost.

10:30 -11:45 - Open Space session #1: this would be a time to identify where each person is feeling energy, what needs/issues they feel drawn to address, where they feel passion, where they see opportunity, etc.

11:45-12:45 - Lunch

12:45-1:45 - Witness Talk – this could be an individual or possibly a panel (no more than 3 people) who would share something of their own struggles and successes in being an effective Changemaker. Should include time for audience questions and interaction.



2016 Dayton Changemaker Participants

1:45-3:15 - Open Space session #2

3:30-5:00 - Organizing Lounge: bring your ideas based on your particular group that is attending. Are they educators, business professionals, religious? What you do here depends on your audience. This is a place to brainstorm with one another about next steps. There might be letters out for writing to government officials, best practice lesson plans that teachers can examine, documents from the Church to sit down and discuss, materials for purchase, computers set up with the leaders there to guide them through looking at Church docs, MSJC website, ways to contact their political leaders, etc.

5:00-6:00 - Dinner

6:15-7:00 - Closing Prayer/Liturgy: this could include some kind of individual commitment service focusing on what next steps each person is willing to take.

In order to effectively organize this kind of gathering, you will need:

- 3-6 month lead time from when you begin the organizing to when the event happens.
- Recruit a 5-8 person planning team.
- Contact the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative to determine what assistance you will need from them and what they can provide.

Resources we can offer to you:

- Some staff support from MSJC.
- Prayer/prayer services for the day.
- Articles and handouts, for example “How Do Marianists Do Social Justice”, “Why Stories Matter”, etc. We can help identify and gather resources for you to use.
- Methodological support in walking through or giving feedback on the design.

To discuss possibilities further, contact:

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CHANGEMAKERS PRAYER

Change me, Giver of Life, so I may become the change you seek.
Open my heart and quiet my fears that I may do your will.
Let me be a true witness to the magnificent things you have done for me.
May I manifest your light to family, community, church and world.
We pray this in the boldness of Mary's yes and in our hope for
a world that will accept your love. Amen.

