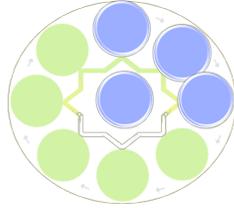




# THE ART OF CONVENING™ TRAINING

Purpose in Action



## SESSION 2

### HOMEWORK & PREPARATION

#### SESSION THEMES [Convener Engaged with Self]

<p><b>The Invitation</b> A sincere offering to engage that integrates purpose and intent</p>		
<p><b>Challenge:</b> Rejection</p>	<p><b>Principle:</b> The combination of sincerity, hospitality, and generosity is a strong attractor for full presence.</p>	<p><b>Essential Questions:</b> Who am I to invite? What is at the heart of my invitation? Why should they come?</p>
<p><b>Setting Context</b> Communicating the form, function, and purpose of our engagement and intent</p>		
<p><b>Challenge:</b> Assumption <i>Assume and Doom</i></p>	<p><b>Principle:</b> The clear articulation of purpose and intent allows the highest potential for the actualization of that purpose.</p>	<p><b>Essential Questions:</b> What is this gathering about? What do the participants need to know to show up ready to fully participate? What is our individual and collective purpose for this engagement and for the sake of what do we do this work?</p>

#### Session Reading:

Readings from *The Art of Convening: Authentic Engagement in Meetings, Gatherings, and Conversations*

- Chapter 3-The Invitation
- Chapter 4-Setting Context

**Handouts:** download from blog

#### Journaling Questions and Exercise to complete before Session 2

*Your responses will be discussed during the session call*

**The Invitation:**

Recall a time when you extended an invitation in your professional life. What was at the heart of the invitation and what was the compelling reason for them to attend?

1. Were your intention and the construction of the invitation aligned with each other and in integrity with Who You Are?
2. If not, what could you have done differently?
3. When, if ever, has fear of rejection gotten in the way of extending an invitation? Consider what might have been lost as a result.

**Setting Context:**

Imagine a meeting or gathering you may have in the future.

1. How would you articulate the form, function, purpose and desired outcomes for your engagement?
2. How would it be received?
3. How would it affect the nature of the engagement?
4. What difference can you imagine between doing this and not setting context - or giving it less attention?

**Exercise: The Naming Exercise**

An elegant yet powerful exercise to create alignment and extend an effective invitation that expresses hospitality, generosity and conviction in advance of any meeting is surprisingly simple.

**The Principle:** *When we hold people in our most positive thoughts, there is a powerful field created that brings them into our intention.*

**The Practice:**

Step 1- Prior to a gathering, write each name of those that will attend on paper so that you can read each participant's name out loud. Reading names the night before allows you to sleep on them, or you may try it the day of. This process has multiple benefits for our gathering, including the reinforcement of the sincerity of the invitation.

Step 2- Find a quiet place where you are able to concentrate as the names are read (either by the Convener alone or by a team), we envision each person as welcome to the meeting ready to share their valuable gifts. There is something especially honoring to the participants in doing this. It translates into a genuine expression of appreciation as we go forward with the gathering.