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### **Peacebuilders Initiative**

Using the model of the Peacebuilders Initiative program we will explore how to integrate various aspects of education to create a systematic approach that unifies a curriculum around academic engagement, service learning, liturgical prayer, theological reflection, and community of praxis. We will also discuss how mentors become bearers of knowledge for adolescents as they seek to integrate the various aspects of what it means to become a young person educated in the ways of peace. Finally, we will examine how the insights and awareness of youth derived from their own context can become the basis out which they realize their agency for change within their own community.

These concepts are applicable to all those who work with youth in a variety of settings, including but not limited to churches, schools, and camping programs. By offering a broad definition of violence the workshop allows participants examine each of their contexts for the presence of this dehumanizing reality and strategize a holistic response. Participants will gain from this workshop the ability to analyze their own program based on the varied pedagogical practices outlines here and equipped to allow the adolescents whom they lead to bring their own knowledge to the educational process.

#### **Outline of Interactive Workshop:**

Goal: Present a holistic approach to adolescent religious education.

Objectives:

1. Participants will gain an understanding of each component of the systematic pedagogy.
2. Participants will examine their own curriculum in light of the various components.
3. Participants will consider how the knowledge already held by adolescents can effect the educational process.

**Materials:**

1. Power point with images of the various components
2. Paper and writing utensils for self reflection

**Schedule:**

1. Welcome and Introduction of the Peacebuilders Initiative curriculum (10 min)  
  
Question to answer: How is the systematic curriculum constructed to educated students towards becoming Peacebuilders?
2. Examination of Components (40 min): Participants will identify the various components both present and absent in their current approach.  
  
Question to answer: Where are these current components included in my present curriculum and where are they missing?
  - a. Academic engagement
  - b. Service Learning
  - c. Liturgical Prayer
  - d. Theological Reflection
  - e. Community of Praxis
3. Reflection on a posteriori knowledge of adolescents (20 min)  
  
Question to answer: What knowledge and insight do the adolescents already possess that enables their agency?
4. Questions and Conclusion (5 min)