**Running a Learning Circle**

**The following is information you would send to participants prior to the first meeting.**

You will need a copy of the book.

In addition to the book, here are some other items you will need:

· **The Educational Resources**. Throughout the five-week learning circle, we will be engaging in ongoing reflections of the book. Download the copy of the Educational Resources. The guided questions will aid you in a deep critical thinking process and prepare you to discuss and reflect during the Learning Circle meetings.

· **A Stone**. This process requires respectful speaking and listening. To ensure that we are implementing these skills during our time together, we will be using a strategy called ‘passing the speaking stone’. Our stones will serve as a concrete reminder that when you are holding onto the stone, it is your turn to speak. When you are not holding on to the stone, it is time for deep, empathic listening. Before our first meeting, please find a stone that will serve this purpose and have it ready to use.

· **An Anchor**. This can be vulnerable work. It is helpful to have something physically present that provides comfort and centers you. This could be a piece of material, a photograph, a piece of art, an inspirational quote, a candle. When you start to feel any anxiety or discomfort, this anchor will remind you of your commitment and help support you to stay present.

In preparation for our first meeting, please complete the following journal entry:

· **Journal entry:**Why are you passionate about this social justice issue?

o *Your Intention*: What is your intention as you enter this learning circle? What is your motivation? Your goal?

o *Your Gifts*: What gifts, strengths, talents do you bring into this work that will help you stay in alignment with your intention? How will your gifts help you support others in their goals?

o *Your Concerns*: Learning to see internalized myths/stereotypes can be vulnerable work! What worries do you have about engaging in this work?

In preparation for our first meeting, please download and review ‘**The Circle Way Pocket Guide**’ which goes over the practices, principles, and roles associated with the Circle Way. We will go over this together during our first meeting, but I encourage you to **review pages 8-11**so you will have some idea of what to expect about how we will be spending our time together.

Please do your best to ensure that you are present for each of the meetings, arrive on time, and to the best of your ability, minimize distractions. As mentioned above, this can be sensitive work, and being present for each other is critical to this process.

We will meet once a week for two hours. Meetings will be held on **TBD**, according to the following schedule:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Weeks** | **Topic**  |
| **Week 1:** |  |
| **Week 2:** |  |
| **Week 3:** |  |
| **Week 4:** |  |
| **Week 5:** |  |

Finally, I would like to thank you for your commitment to this learning circle. I look forward to learning with you as we educate ourselves further in this collaborative environment to discover how to become actively involved in creating safe spaces for everyone.