

# BUILDING RESILIENT CONGREGATIONS ▶

## Accompaniment Cohort



Across the United States, communities continue to grapple with visible and invisible struggles of poverty, stress, mental health, trauma and political divisiveness. How do we build resilient congregations equipped to walk alongside one another and their communities?

The C3I received a generous grant through the Eula Mae & John Baugh Foundation for 3-years to consult with 15-20 diverse congregations in three different ministries of hospitality.

The C3I will pilot curriculum on these topics in peer-learning cohorts with the long-term outcome of developing research-informed, evidence-based online certificate programs in each of these focus areas for future congregations.

### ◀ ACCOMPANIMENT



Many congregations meet needs through ministries that provide financial and food assistance. While these ministries are needed, they are often more “transactional” in nature rather than building a sense of relationship and belonging between those involved—the church and community.

C3I's training and consultation in accompaniment will assist congregations in strengthening their ability to engage in relationship with one another and their communities. It will guide congregations into a relational framework of care that helps individuals flourish while also challenging congregations' ideas of poverty, strengthening sensitivity, and blurring the lines between the helper and the helped.

#### **Questions for Consideration:**

- Could *accompaniment* strengthen the ministries of your congregation?
- Does your congregation have a history of relational ministry but now desires to move deeper into justice & advocacy?
- Is your congregation open to ministering with others in your community to create change?

### ◀ INTERESTED? *Contact us.*

We understand that this work is often emotionally difficult and time consuming. However, we also strongly believe that it will lead to God's children being cared for in a deeper and more holistic way. This unique pilot experience will utilize each cohort's feedback and participation to shape the creation of a sustainable model: a finalized, online certification opportunity for future congregations to become better equipped around the topic of Accompaniment for years to come.

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