

Plenary Speaker —Saturday, November 4, 2017, approximately 7:00pm

Presenter: Bill Stanfield

Title: “It's All a Part of the Same Story: How Building Communities from the Inside Out Begins within Each of Us and Extends Outward”

Abstract: One does not have to have worked in distressed communities for long to recognize that the desire to advocate for peace, justice and reconciliation does not necessarily lead to more peace, justice and reconciliation. Often our advocacy leaves us angry, agitated and disconnected from those we sought to serve. The antidote to such feelings can be found in how we approach our relationships with God and one another as we engage to do the work of God’s beloved community.

Outline: A brief outline of the topics that will be covered during this presentation

- Asset Based Community Development (20 minutes)
 - o Theory
 - o Practice
 - o Biblical grounding
- Nurturing our spiritual lives to stay in the marathon of social change (25 minutes)
- Q&A (5-10 minutes)

Learning Objectives:

1. *Describe how typical approaches to helping distressed communities cause burnout and more problems than possibilities within those communities.*
2. *Articulate how focusing on seeing neighborhoods through the eyes of the citizens that live in those communities can revolutionize our attempts to help.*
3. *Describe how to nurture a spiritual stance in the midst of working for social change that maintains a sense of peace, justice and reconciliation within ourselves even as we strive to see more of these out in the world.*

Primary Audience: Social workers and related professionals; social work students; human services professionals; clergy

Content Level: Basic/Intermediate

Number of Continuing Education Contact Hours: 1.0

Bio Information: Rev. Bill Stanfield is a co-founder of the Metanoia Community Development Corporation of North Charleston where he currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer. Metanoia was begun in 2002 with support from the South Carolina Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Stanfield and his wife, Evelyn Oliveira, were hired by this coalition of churches to work to combat child poverty in the zip codes with the highest concentration of child poverty in South Carolina.

The couple spent a year of listening and building community support before building a coalition of local neighborhood leaders, members of St. Matthew Baptist Church and community residents who wanted to see the betterment of the community. Metanoia's innovative approach to community development involves identifying community assets and attracting investment to those assets. Currently, Metanoia focuses this approach in three primary areas – youth leadership development, housing development and economic development.

Metanoia serves to build the leadership skills of 75 students after school and 100 students during the summer months. Daily programming is offered that assists students with academic skills while also growing their leadership skills according to developmentally appropriate standards in areas of character, excellence and presence.

In housing development, Metanoia has either built new or renovated 27 homes for first time homebuyers and quality affordable rental in a neighborhood with large amounts of vacant and abandoned housing stock. Metanoia's homeowners bring stability to the community. On one block where Metanoia brought in six new homeowners violent crime dropped 64%. Metanoia has also renovated over 60 homes for homeowners on a low fixed income. Additionally, Metanoia has provided over 70 low income homeowners with essential repairs to their properties, thus preserving their family's leading asset.

Metanoia has also funded a minority contractor training academy that graduated over 60 small contractors with better business skills. Metanoia students have begun two small businesses and they partnered with the Low Country Food Bank to construct a production kitchen to provide culinary arts job training in their community. In 2014 Metanoia opened a new Youth Entrepreneurship and Volunteer center in the heart of the Reynolds avenue commercial corridor. The facility houses an incubator for youth businesses and dormitory space for out of town volunteers coming to serve in Metanoia's programs. In the Spring of 2016 the facility will add a café to serve the community. Metanoia also supports a community garden effort that has grown a public community garden in the neighborhood and incubated a number of private gardens with individual residents of Chicora Cherokee. They engage in grassroots community organizing that has gotten a new school built in their community, rezoning a healthier community and lower neighborhood speed limits. In the fall of 2015, Metanoia was awarded an \$800,000 federal Community Economic Development Grant to create 40 new jobs in the neighborhood through a partnership with the Urban Electric Company, a local lighting manufacturer.

Rev. Stanfield is originally from Greensboro, NC and holds a Bachelors Degree in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He and his wife met at Princeton Theological Seminary from which they both obtained Masters of Divinity Degrees. Rev. Stanfield is a graduate of the SC Governor's School for Economic Development, The SC Department of Commerce Economic Developer's School and the SC Community Development Institute of Clemson University, Benedict College and the SC Association of CDCs. He is a graduate of the 2011 class of the Liberty Fellowship Program and Rev. Stanfield was voted the 2012 North Charleston Citizen of the Year by the North Charleston Citizens Advisory Council. He and his wife are the adoptive parents to two boys from Ethiopia ages 6 and 9. Rev. Stanfield is also an associate minister at St. Matthew Baptist church.

Bibliography: