

Opening Plenary—Thursday, November 12, 2015 (1.0 CEU)

## Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige

### *"Pursuing Shalom: Moving Forward While Thinking Backwards"*

**Abstract:** Pursuing *Shalom* is an activity that every Christian undertakes. *Shalom* can be loosely translated as peace. How one pursues *Shalom* is determined by how one defines the *end* – the outcome. As Christians we must ask ourselves, “What kind of peace am I working towards?” There are at least three levels peace: personal, communal, and global. Personal peace focuses on the individual; it asks about “My welfare, my rest, my peace”. Communal peace focuses on organized groups such as neighborhoods and countries; it asks about “the prosperity within our political boundaries, the harmony between neighboring countries.” Global peace, however, is the reconciliation of all things; it asks about “the broken places on earth and the broken relationships between God and God’s creation.” “Pursuing *Shalom*: Moving Forward While Thinking Backwards” will challenge participants to begin their pursuit of *Shalom* with the end in mind and to explore the Why, Who, What, and How of our pursuits.

#### **Outline:**

- Introduction (5 min)
- Defining peace; defining Shalom (15 min)
- The pursuit is on... but where are you going? (10 min)
- The art of Thinking Backwards (10 min)
- Close with challenge to move forward while thinking backwards (5 min)

**Learning Objectives:** *As a result of this presentation participants will be able to:*

- Summarize the why, who, what, and how of pursuing *Shalom*.
- Articulate the costs and rewards of pursuing *Shalom*.
- Describe the increased capacity to become self-aware of motivations to serve.

**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:** Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige (PhD) is the Executive Associate to the President for Diversity and Inclusion and the Dean of Multicultural Affairs at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In these roles she provides strategic leadership for Calvin College’s work on diversity and inclusion.

As a graduate of Calvin College, Dr. Loyd-Paige received her Bachelors of Arts in Sociology. She then continued her education at Purdue University where she earned her Masters of Arts and Doctorate of Philosophy in Sociology. In 1985 Dr. Loyd-Paige

became a member of the faculty in the Sociology department at Calvin College. Upon receiving tenure Dr. Loyd-Paige was promoted to full professor. In 2006 she became the Dean of Multicultural Affairs and the Executive Associate to the President for Diversity and Inclusion in 2013.

In addition to her work at Calvin College, Dr. Loyd-Paige is an ordained minister of the Gospel and is the president and founder of Preach Sista Inc. A non-profit organization that provides a supportive environment for women to discern, grow into, and celebrate their calling to Christian ministry. She is also the Associate Pastor at Angel Community Church of Muskegon, Michigan.

Dr. Loyd-Paige resides in Muskegon Heights, Michigan with her husband of 29 years, Mayor Darrell Paige. She and her husband are the proud parents of three adult children.