



## **Mary Alice Trent –**

# **Modeling an inclusive love & a biblical vision of diversity**

### **Discussion Guide**

This resource is designed to help your small group or college class discussion. It's shaped to inspire you to consider new ways to understand the issues discussed in this video. You don't need to answer all the questions. Please allow time for discussion and response.

## **Materials**

1. Person Interviewed: Mary Alice Trent
2. Theme of Video: Modeling an inclusive love & a biblical vision of diversity

## **Preliminary discussion**

Consider the questions suggested below to start the conversation for your small group or college class. They'll consolidate the content of the video, after you've viewed it.

1. What were the major themes in this video?
2. How do those themes relate to your life and context?
3. Discuss the difficulties of the content. What was difficult to understand? Was there anything you would like to clarify with the group?
4. Theological method: How is the interviewee's theology and outlook informed and shaped by their practical ministry and context? What approaches do they take in understanding God in the context of their daily life and ministry?

## Explore and apply

Explore the major themes raised in the video. Critically engage with the theology. Consider the questions that respond to the issues raised in your preliminary discussion. Apply the answers to these questions in your own setting. Ensure the discussion is specifically drawing on your local setting. Make sure the discussion is relevant to the lives of faith for your small group or college class. Encourage relevant and thoughtful examples from each participant.

1. What did you learn about Mary Alice Trent's role at Indiana Wesleyan University, and her journey into such a role?
2. Mary is the founder and past chair of the Conference on Christianity, Culture and Diversity in America. How did that conference come about? What was her dream for that conference? Why was such a conference needed? What issues did it address?
3. In "The Language of Diversity", Mary (and other contributors) address a wide range of important issues. What is a biblical vision of diversity, and why is it important?
4. What are the greatest challenges facing the church today (as it seeks a biblical diversity)? What are the greatest opportunities?
5. How can the church enjoy and practice diversity in its mission and life together?
6. How does racism affect the church today?
7. What does restoration and reconciliation look like, and how do we get there?
8. Why does reconciliation require justice?
9. How can educational platforms help us move toward diversity?
10. How can education help us practice and talk honestly and openly about religion, race, disabilities, and gender?
11. What are the greatest challenges facing the church today?
12. What social and ethical issues must the church address today?
13. What is the mission of the church? How does it pursue this mission?
14. How can the church renew its ministry and mission?
15. How can the church activate all of God's people in mission and ministry?
16. How can the church make disciples of Jesus?

## Informing Community

Facilitate the space for your group to respond to the discussion. You might consider this section as a personal time of written journal responses to the following questions.

1. What is God encouraging our group and me, to do?
2. In response to the issues raised in the video, what are areas I want to ask God for forgiveness in? How do I need to change? What does God want me to stand up for?
3. How do I need God to minister to me and my community, for us to better engage with the contextual issues of our community?
4. How can I gain a better understanding of the issues discussed in this video? What do we ask that God would do in our hearts?

## Prayer

Spend time in prayer over what you've learnt.

Invite the ministry of the Holy Spirit to clarify, heal, and inspire change for your participants and communities.

## Links

**Website:** [www.theglobalchurchproject.com](http://www.theglobalchurchproject.com)

### **Books:**

Graham Hill, *GlobalChurch: Reshaping Our Conversations, Renewing Our Mission, Revitalizing Our Churches* (IVP Academic, 2016).

Graham Hill, *Salt, Light, and a City (Second Edition): Ecclesiology for the Global Missional Community: Volume 1, Western Voices* (Cascade, 2017).

Graham Hill and Grace Ji-Sun Kim. *Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World* (IVP, 2018).