

**From:** Coming to the Table <office@comingtothetable.org>  
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Taking America (USA) Beyond the Legacy of Enslavement

# COMING TO THE TABLE

Newsletter November 2011

## Visit the Website for New Stories



For information about the January 2012 Mid-Atlantic Gathering click [here](#).

For information about and to register for our March 2012 National Gathering,

## A Letter from the Director



Dear CTTT Community,

As I write this, I'm very aware that the grant funding for CTTT is entering its final few months, and thus my time of

click [here](#).

### Quick Links

[Visit us on Facebook. Search "Coming to the Table"](#)

[Visit our website!](#)  
[Join our Community Network site!](#)

### Our Funders

[Kellogg Foundation](#)  
[Fetzer Institute](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Regional CTTT Groups

Coming to the Table now has four active regional groups - Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Bay Area and Puget Sound!

The groups are informally affiliated with CTTT and each has evolved in its own way with local leadership and support from the national project. There is also solid movement towards a regional group in New Orleans, and prospects for a Southeast

direct involvement with CTTT is also drawing to a close. It continues to be a true honor to work with this project, and I have learned a tremendous amount during this time. Thanks to each one of you who are confronting the legacy and aftermath of slavery in your personal lives, the lives of your family and friends, your communities, and our country as a whole.

Over the last several months, a number of important activities have occurred that are setting up the sustainability of the CTTT community to continue after the ending of the grant period. CTTT members have done a tremendous amount of work developing a strategic plan, organizing a board, and developing a funding plan for ongoing activities. Just now, we are finalizing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between CTTT and EMU that will allow CTTT to function as an auxiliary organization under EMU's 501(c)3 status.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, a Youth Civil Rights Pilgrimage took place in July, with a follow up weekend with the youth earlier this month. A 30-minute film of the pilgrimage will be premiered in early 2012 in Philadelphia, MS, in Washington, DC, and at EMU. An update, in the near future, will be sent out via e-mail and the listserv about dates and times of these viewings.

The development of regional CTTT meetings has been a significant undertaking over the past several months, with regional meetings taking place in Seattle, Oakland, Richmond, and the Northeast with other regional groups beginning to take shape.

Finally, the development of CTTT materials are continuing, with three significant documents in various stages of development: a handbook for developing a community dialogue on slavery and race, a CTTT curriculum for use by schools and community groups, and a Healing Historical

regional group as well.

If you would like to be involved in a local or regional group, please contact Susan Hutchison at [susan.hutchison@emu.edu](mailto:susan.hutchison@emu.edu).

If you haven't already, please join our online Community Network, currently 240 members strong.

Sign up [here](#) and share your story!

For Facebook members, we also have an active and open Facebook group with over 100 members - just search for Coming to the Table.

Harms manual that extends CTTT learnings to other groups that have experienced multi-generational traumas.

Once again, I offer my appreciation to each member of the CTTT community.

--Jan Jenner, CTTT Project Director

## CTTT Planning for Future



As you may know from reading the web postings and email I sent out a few weeks ago, Coming to the Table is undergoing some exciting changes.

CTTT was launched when several connected descendants of enslaved persons and enslavers sought assistance from Eastern Mennonite University to hold an unprecedented gathering of others connected in this way. Over the next few years, EMU helped us by obtaining several grants to develop a conceptual framework, create a model for racial healing, and grow the community of participants.

CTTT's major grant funding is coming to an end in March 2012, so those of us who have been serving on various

CTTT advisory boards to EMU have been planning the next steps for our initiative.

After reviewing several potential structures for CTTT, we have decided to organize ourselves as an affiliate of EMU. We would have our own "board" and be responsible for our own fundraising, while securing our non-profit 501c3 status through EMU. We will contract with EMU to provide services, such as accounting, donation processing, space for meetings, web site hosting, etc., based on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The board, with membership input, would be responsible for setting the direction of CTTT activities after March 2012 and beyond.

We have formed a board of 12 people to lead CTTT for the next year. (For board member bios click [here](#)).

Pat Russell, President  
Phoebe Kilby, Vice President  
Prinny Anderson, Secretary  
Susan Hutchison, Treasurer  
Shay Banks-Young  
Betty Baldwin  
Art Carter  
Ken Collier  
Tom DeWolf  
Holly Fulton  
Racquelia Kilby  
Pat Thomas

This group worked over the summer to develop a strategic plan for Coming to the Table. The first step was to adopt vision, mission and approach statements to guide our work:

#### Vision

Our vision for the United States is of a just and truthful society that acknowledges and seeks to heal from the racial wounds of the past—from slavery and the many forms of racism it spawned.

#### Mission

Coming to the Table provides leadership, resources, and a supportive environment for all who wish to acknowledge and heal wounds from racism that is rooted in the United

States' history of slavery.

### Approach

We work with descendants of slaveholders and descendants of people who were enslaved, as well as with other individuals, families and communities, in the hope that we can contribute to the transformation and healing of the nation. We welcome all who wish to join us in our mission.

Our approach to achieving our vision and mission involves four interrelated practices:

- Uncovering history: researching, acknowledging, and sharing personal, family and community histories of race with openness and honesty;
- Making connections: connecting to others within and across racial lines in order to develop and deepen relationships;
- Working toward healing: exploring how we can heal together through dialogue, reunion, ritual, ceremony, the arts, apology, and other methods;
- Taking action: actively seeking to heal the wounds of racial inequality and injustice and to support racial reconciliation between individuals, within families, and in communities.

We also adopted a detailed set of goals and objectives, which we plan to present at the National Gathering in Richmond on March 16 - 18. (See the section below to register).

Included in these goals and objectives is an outline of the programs we plan to offer:

- Host social networking sites to promote the sharing of information among members and spontaneous online conversations
- Email / post a newsletter at least 4 times per year
- Offer topical conference calls for in-person voice conversations and explorations of topics of interest
- Sponsor local and regional gatherings
- Host an annual national conference

- Provide staff and volunteers to make one-on-one contacts with CTTT members and to provide coaching and mentoring assistance as requested
- Offer downloadable resources relevant to our mission
- Offer CTTT manuals for trainings in the CTTT approach and to guide group gatherings

In order to offer these programs, we will need to generate the necessary funding from our Community members and from small grants. We have adopted a fundraising goal of \$71,500 for 2012. We hope that you will respond to our requests for donations as you are able so that CTTT can offer these programs and continue to grow and thrive. (See two sections below for information on making a contribution).

We welcome you to join us in our mission and continue the good work of Coming to the Table.

Pat Russell, CTTT Board President

## National Gathering

Coming to the Table will hold a national gathering in Richmond, VA, March 16-18, 2012. Join us for a weekend of connecting, sharing stories, learning and healing! This gathering will mark the transition from our initial phase of grant funding and major support from Eastern Mennonite University to our next phase of greater independence as a Community. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**Coming to the Table Needs Your Financial Support!**

As CTTT becomes a more independent organization, we will need to find the financial resources to support our work. We decided not to charge dues to members, because we do not want anyone to be excluded from our organization due to lack of funds. So we are focusing on soliciting donations from our members and applying for grants.

We need your help to ensure that CTTT thrives!

Please consider making a gift to Coming to the Table. Here are two ways:

1. On line:

<https://www.emu.edu/giving/donate/give-now/>

Be sure to click on Coming to the Table in the "Apply Toward" drop-down menu.

2. By check:

Make out your check to EMU-CTTT and send it to:

Office of Development  
Eastern Mennonite University  
1200 Park Road  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

For the mean time, we will remain affiliated with EMU, which will provide our non-profit status and other support and encouragement. Your gift will be tax deductible.

Your gift will allow us to host a website, employ a community coordinator, organize conference calls, nurture our growing local and regional gatherings, provide training materials, and offer an annual national conference.

Thank you so much for considering making a gift to Coming to the Table.

Questions? Contact Phoebe Kilby at [phoebe.kilby@emu.edu](mailto:phoebe.kilby@emu.edu) or 800-368-3383.

