

FAQs

June 16 Diversity Conversation

Is this just for youth?

- No, it is not just for youth, it is for **all** at PBC. However the focus will be on youth sharing their perspectives on diversity:

what are their **observations, experiences** and **learnings**.

There may be one or two more mature voices sharing stories from their young days and linking this to life in 2018.

We will all be challenged and inspired by these perspectives.

Why two sessions?

- The **first session [16 June]** will mainly be a time of **listening** to a mosaic of voices, with a brief moments for sharing in groups about what you have heard.

This will expose you to many diverse views. At the end of the first session you will be given some homework questions to reflect upon.

- In the **follow up session [21 June]** you will be given a chance to share your personal responses in small groups, and listen to others too.

The second half of the session will be for prayer ministry (alone or in groups whatever you feel led) and allowing the Holy Spirit do heart and mind renewing and healing.

Isn't this just
the church
being
politically
correct?

- Hearing each other's stories is about us understanding each other better. When we understand each other better, we can **work together to remove the blocks that prevent unity in our community**. We are not interested in surface level political correctness, we are about building an authentic community where all are included and all feel that they fully belong.
- Further we don't want to just be policing our language around each other as so often happens in secular spaces grappling with diversity, rather we are **trusting God for authentic healing** of relationships between one another; as well as deep, Holy Spirit **renewing of our hearts and minds**.

How much
change really
happens through
stories? Can we
rather start to fix
things

- Story telling is in itself part of “fixing things”. **Hearing another person’s story** breaks down barriers and prejudices, increases **empathy** and compassion, **diminishes “us and them”** thinking, shrinks suspicions and melts fears, broadens perspectives and widens knowledge, and nourishes the soil of our hearts to allow real love to grow.
- Working on solutions and fixing before we know each other’s stories can often lead to more conflict and pain. However, as we move from a season of storytelling into working together to undo injustice we have a greater chance of working in authentic unity.

It's been 6 months since the last Diversity Conversation – is the church taking this seriously?

- It is important to know that, just as a plant has two parts: that which you see above the soil and that which you see under the soil, so too does the Diversity Journey at PBC.
- The **Conversation** Gatherings are what is **visible**, like the stem and leaves; but under the soil, the **unseen is happening**, the roots are keeping the plant alive.
- So too in PBC much growth and change has been taking place in unseen places: as elders, ministry leaders and steering teams have been praying and working out how they can embrace diversity more intentionally in their spheres of influence.

Join us.



DIVERSITY CONVERSATION
STRENGTHENING OUR PBC FAMILY

LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF THE YOUTH

SAT, 16 JUNE • 9.30am-12pm
THURS, 21 JUNE • 7.30pm-9.30pm
PBC AUDITORIUM