The Common Ground Project’s Next Generation Consultation seeks to bring together pastors and church leaders from African American, Latin@ and Asian American congregations, with scholars from related fields, to identify and discuss the issues, challenges, commonalities and differences related to the development of the next generations of church leadership for these specific communities and for the greater Church. A significant aspect of this consultation is to create mentoring relationships between key current leaders in the church and emerging church leadership among the next generation*.

This consultation will begin with a gathering at McCormick Theological Seminary from 30 September - 2 October 2010 and will continue for a year with monthly teleconferences, ongoing web-based communications and smaller, quarterly, regional group gatherings. These activities will culminate approximately one year later with a second gathering at McCormick with this same group. There are four primary goals of this consultation:

**NETWORKING.** To build an emerging leaders network for on-going dialogue and fellowship through engaging conversation around similarities and differences among the “next generation”.

**MENTORSHIP.** Create a cycle of mentorship by bringing together emerging and existing leaders for the purpose of mentorship and developing mentors for the future.

**COLLABORATION.** Identify common issues among the next generation and find creative ways in which the participants of the consultation can collectively address them in the long term.

**FORMATION.** Develop and sustain ministerial practices that form and maintain a healthy ministerial identity.

*The term “next generation” is intended to describe communities where “generation” could describe immigration status (i.e. “second generation” versus first generation) or a shift in leadership within a community (i.e. prominent and well-respected leaders entering into retirement), leaving a profound vacancy in leadership.*
There are many issues that the next generation of church leaders face and the planning team has identified the following contextual challenges and issues to focus on in the consultation discussion and mentoring relationships:

**Inter-generational church issues.** Language, culture gaps and changes in social realities can contribute to intergenerational tensions.

**Women’s role in church leadership.** Women of color often find that their authority as ministers is either disregarded or undermined.

**Healthy Identity:** How can emerging church leadership develop a healthy racial/ethnic identity, regardless of context, and navigate the tension between identity preservation and a shifting sense of identity within various contexts?

**Navigating a multicultural context:** Identifying and gaining effective tools and models (i.e. leadership and “survival” skills) for navigating multi-cultural congregations/denominations or congregations/denominations where the dominant race or ethnicity is not the same of the minister.

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**FAQs**

**What is a consultation?** This gathering is participatory for all who attend. A consultation is where everyone’s opinion is desired and being consulted.

**What will I be doing?** You will be expected to contribute to the conversation. You are being invited because we believe your perspective is valuable. An additional (optional) component to the consultation is that of mentoring relationships (see below).

**What’s in it for me?** At the same time, you will have an opportunity to network with like-minded colleagues, collaborating with them on addressing the issues discussed. You will also have an opportunity to enter into a mentoring relationship – either among peers or with a mentee/mentor. (The mentee/mentor relationships will be arranged beforehand. If you are interested, contact us!)

**Questions? Contact us!**

**Rev. Emily McGinley**, Director of The Common Ground Project

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Learn more at www.mccormick.edu/commonground
Schedule of Events

Thursday • 30 September 2010
2-4pm: Mentor Training*
4-6pm: Registration for All
6-7pm: Dinner
7-7:30pm: Opening Worship
7:30-9pm: Introduction to the Consultation

Friday, 1 October 2010
8-8:30am: Breakfast
8:30-9am: Devotions
9-10:30am: Cohort Conversation #1
10:30-11am: Break
11-12:30pm: Cohort Conversation #2
12:30-2pm: Lunch
2-4pm: Cohort Conversation #3
4-4:30pm: Break
4:30-6:30pm: Group Conversation
6:30-7:30pm: Dinner
7:30-9pm: Stir-Friday Nights Improv Performance

Saturday, 2 October 2010
8-8:30am: Breakfast
8:30-9am: Devotions
9-11am: Next Steps & Mentoring Groups
11-11:30am: Break
11:30-12:30pm: Consultation Wrap-up
12:30-2pm: Lunch

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*Mentor training is for those who have been invited to serve as mentors throughout the year of the consultation cycle.