**World Cafe: Engaging the University: Getting Practical**

**GFM National Staff Conference 2016**

**Description**: This World Cafe will be an opportunity to “talk shop” about how GFM students, faculty, and chapters can engage the university. We’ll brainstorm ideas and share practices about how to find important conversations in the university, how to integrate Christians into these conversations, how we might stimulate conversations in the universities where we serve, etc. We’ll discuss ideas ranging from one-on-one, department-level and cross-disciplinary conversations to public events and programming.

**Readings**:

*Engaging the University: Getting Practical. US and IFES Examples.* Compilation by Dr. Terry Halliday, 2016.

*Passion Talks*, by GFM staff Wendy Quay Honeycutt, 2016.

**Questions**:

1. In what ways can we encourage Christian students to talk Christianly to each other about their academic interests? About disciplinary and cross-disciplinary topics? About issues the whole university confronts?

2. Where can we find theological doctrines, themes, and resources that enable us to engage with all domains of university life?

3. In your experience on campus with GFM, how have you (students/faculty chapter) approached engaging the university? What have you tried? What practices work in different settings? What did you learn from what didn’t work?

4. As you consider the university where you serve with GFM, what are some important conversations happening presently, and where are they happening in the university? How might Christians build bridges/trust to be invited into these conversations? How can Christians stimulate conversations in the university where you serve? What opportunities do you see?

**Details: 3 rounds of conversation; 20 minutes per round.**

Round 1: discuss all 4 questions. Your group may choose to focus on 1-2 questions in-depth.

Round 2: share highlights from round 1 with your new group, and discuss further.

Round 3: share highlights from round 2 with your new group, and discuss further.

For each round:

* Each person takes a turn being the talker.
* The other three people serve as listeners.
* After each person in the group has had an opportunity to respond to the question/s, take the rest of the time for group discussion.

**World Cafe Guidelines:**

Speak with your mind and heart

Contribute your thinking

Focus on what matters

Listen to understand

Have fun!

Play… draw… doodle…

Listen together for patterns, insights, and deeper connections

Link and connect ideas

Slow down… so you have time to think and reflect.