



## Introduction

Despite Jesus' clear mandate for unity and welcoming all to the table, churches remain some of the most divided institutions in our society. With over 45,000 Christian denominations and countless divides over race, gender, theology, and politics, the Church's fractured witness stands in stark contrast to Jesus' prayer that we would be one (John 17).

A team of diverse Christian leaders in Boston recognized this gap and came together to ask: **What kind of discipleship is needed to form leaders who uphold God's call for unity and oneness in today's world? How can we come together to bear witness to the reconciling love of Christ and honor various backgrounds while still upholding our deepest convictions?**

Through prayer, study, and listening, UniteBoston has been on a two-year journey of developing the **Beloved Community Lab**, a unique opportunity for Christian leaders to come together across lines of difference to learn and practice unity, justice, and reconciliation in their leadership contexts.

We call this a "lab" because it combines core theological concepts with real-world application through case studies, interactive exercises, and spiritual practices. This cohort is a space for spiritual formation—shaping participants into peacemakers and reconcilers, growing into the life and way of Jesus.

While Scripture and tradition make it clear about our mandate to be people of reconciliation, we are concerned that Christians are often part of the problem rather than the solution. In a world where there is unprecedented diversity and much strife, animosity and siloes, Christ's purpose was to create in himself one new humanity (Eph 2:15).

We believe that:

- Jesus' prayer for our oneness - a unity that upholds belovedness, justice, and reconciliation - is the call of our time.
- Following the way of Jesus is meant to lead to healing and reconciliation, rather than for division and harm.

- Christian communities are called to bridging places, centers of reconciliation, where major diversities that separate human beings are overcome through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- What holds us together in Jesus Christ is stronger than anything that divides us.
- The divides our world faces today won't be solved without deep recognition of our need for one another and a community of people who are willing to walk together.

**If we want to see a different kind of world and a more embodied Christian witness, we must become different kinds of people.** Our Beloved Community Lab curriculum is an experiment in Christian unity that **seeks to change not just what we know, but how we live.**

## History

The Beloved Community Lab has grown out of UniteBoston's decade-long commitment to Christian unity, bridging historic divides, and upholding Jesus' prayer "that they would be one."

- **2012–2022: Initial Work and Foundational Insight**

Since 2012, UniteBoston has worked to bridge Christian divides primarily through communication (weekly email newsletters) and large events (worship nights). We soon realized that achieving the unity Christ prayed for required a deeper model: intentional, heart-level conversations focused on building friendships, truth-telling, reckoning, and repair to tend to the dividing walls and wounds that are separating Christians.

- **2023: Cohort Model and Core Convictions**

We began to see real fruit emerging after a *Be the Bridge for Boston* cohort model in 2021. In 2023, we launched the Christian Unity in the City Cohort of twelve local pastoral leaders who shared their stories of unity and disunity in the church. We began to understand that the path to unity runs *through* our differences, demanding deep accompaniment and costly solidarity beyond shallow "kumbaya" togetherness. We identified three key barriers to Christian unity: myopic theology, righteous hubris, and historical injustices.

- **2024: Curriculum Development**

A diverse team of local pastors originally sketched these lessons to address three core barriers to Christian unity. Using instructional design theories, they developed this framework into the Beloved Community Lab curriculum. The resulting curriculum is built upon five foundational themes: belovedness, diversity, reconciliation, justice, and shalom.

- **2025–2026: Pilot Phase**

The curriculum was piloted with sixteen diverse Boston-based pastors through twelve sessions and a closing retreat, running from September 2025 to June 2026.

- **2026–2027: Expansion and Training**

In this next phase, we are focused on three key initiatives:

1. **Leading workshops:** Our team is sharing lessons and practices as workshops within various congregations and conference gatherings.
2. **Training new leaders:** We are training and coaching leaders who wish to run the entire Beloved Community Lab in their own cities and communities.

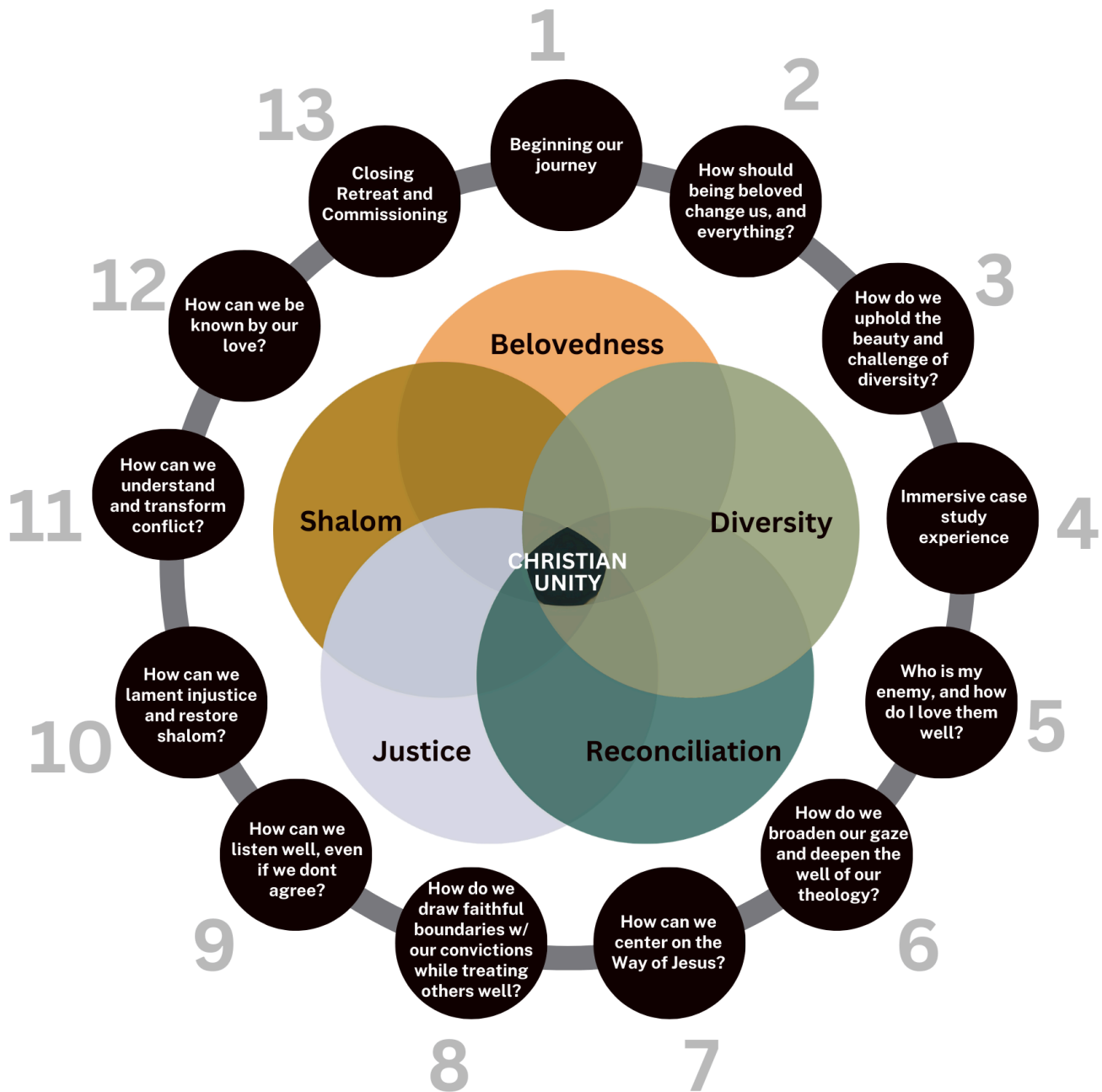
3. **Refining and sharing the curriculum:** Through leading workshops and training leaders, we are refining the curriculum and practices and making selected materials available.

- **2027-2028: Publication**

We plan to work with a designer to finalize and publish lessons for the Beloved Community Lab, and continue training and coaching leaders.

- **2028 and beyond:** We have big dreams, including continued expansion regionally and nationally, hosting a community of practice with those who are leading the cohorts and practices, launching a Beloved Community Podcast, launching the community of practice regionally and nationally, and host a national gathering to celebrate what God has done and look forward.

## Beloved Community Lab – Twelve Session Overview



The **Beloved Community Lab** curriculum is a twelve-session journey designed to move Christian leaders from abstract theory to embodied spiritual and relational transformation. Each session combines specific theological objectives with pedagogical activities to equip leaders as ambassadors of reconciliation, through Belovedness, Diversity, Reconciliation, Justice, and Shalom.

### **The Twelve Sessions: Objectives & Activities**

#### **Session 1: Welcome to the Journey**

- **Objectives:** To begin building relationships, set expectations for the Lab, and build the foundation for a "brave space" for the upcoming year.
- **Activities:** Relational activities, sharing the "ache" or pain that drew each person to this work of unity, and the co-creation of "courageous commitments."

### Session 2: Upholding the Beauty and Challenge of Diversity

- **Objectives:** To develop an appreciation for the theological significance of unity within diversity, build relational trust through story sharing, and recognize the real challenges diversity presents.
- **Activities:** The "**Identity River**" mapping exercise followed by peer group reflection on cultural formation and a self-assessment on engaging across lines of difference.

### Session 3: Being and Becoming the Beloved Community

- **Objectives:** To articulate the foundation that every human is made in the image of God (*Imago Dei*) and bestowed with inherent dignity and worth, and understanding Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community rooted in God's love and justice.
- **Activities:** A **Lectio Divina** practice on belovedness, gleaning from Dr. King's vision for beloved community in his "Birth of a New Nation" speech, and "Reimagining with Belovedness" case studies.

### Session 4: Immersive Case Study – LGBTQ+ Inclusion and the Church

- **Objective:** To practice faithful Christian witness while navigating the tension of diverse convictions, experiences, and identities. Using scenarios drawn from real Greater Boston churches, participants explore how to relate well to one another across deep differences.
- **Activities:** Through a **Decision-Making Role-Play**, participants step into specific pastoral roles to make real-time leadership choices. The focus is not on debating personal theology, but on experiencing the impact of actions from different perspectives. This immersive exercise helps leaders hold the vital tension between truth and compassion in real-life ministry contexts.
- *Note: If the topic of LGBTQ+ Inclusion is not appropriate for your particular context, this lesson we be adjusted to an alternative case study topic.*

### Session 5: Disarming Righteous Hubris and Enemy Love

- **Objective:** To recognize "righteous hubris"—the spiritual pride that dehumanizes others—and identify personal "enemies" in our current context. Participants will explore the revolutionary nature of Christ's command to love our enemies and discern what that love practically entails in a polarized world.
- **Activities:** Leaders will map the "**Spectrum of Disunity**" (tracing the slide from healthy diversity to destructive hostility) and develop a concrete, healthy plan to engage their "enemy" through Christlike love and reconciliation.

### Session 6: Cultivating A Holistic Theology

- **Objectives:** To identify the sources of beliefs using the **Wesleyan Quadrilateral** and to understand how the "streams of living water" (Contemplative, Charismatic, Social Justice, Evangelical, Holiness, and Incarnational) synergize to form a holistic and vibrant Church

- **Activities:** A "Theological Audit" to diagnose myopia in real-world tensions and a "Receptive Ecumenism" networking exercise where participants "receive" the gifts of different Christian streams.

### **Session 7: Centering on the Way of Jesus**

- **Objectives:** To distinguish between "bounded-set" (gatekeeping) and "centered-set" (way-finding) communities and reclaim the Creeds as shared "ropes" rather than walls.
- **Activities:** A "**Rope Exercise**" to physically demonstrate the difference between patrolling boundaries and moving toward a common Center, followed by the introduction of the "Centering Toolkit for the Way of Jesus."

### **Session 8: Navigating Theological Distinctions**

- **Objective:** To map your community's specific theological commitments and explore a restorative approach to church discipline. Leaders will wrestle with the "Holy Tension" of maintaining holiness (distinctness) without destroying unity (oneness), ensuring every communal boundary aims for the restoration of the individual and the health of the Body.
- **Activities:** Participants will engage in a "**Community Belief Mapping**" workshop using a bullseye diagram to distinguish between Creeds, Doctrines, and Convictions. This is followed by a comparative Bible study on **1 Corinthians 5** and **Galatians 6**, examining the balance between firm boundaries and gentle restoration.

### **Session 9: Kingdom Conversation – The Art of Deep Listening**

- **Objectives:** To learn and practice key listening skills essential for constructive dialogue in polarized contexts, including managing personal "triggers."
- **Activities:** Structured listening practices and dialogue where participants practice curiosity and generosity regarding a deeply polarized theological or social issue.

### **Session 10: Lamenting Injustice and Restoring Shalom**

- **Objectives:** To develop a biblical vision of justice and shalom as the interdependence of human flourishing and to practice lament as a necessary spiritual discipline.
- **Activities:** Naming specific "holes in shalom" in local neighborhoods and collectively writing **Psalms of Lament** in response to a communal pain that breaks your heart.

### **Session 11: Transforming Conflict from the Roots**

- **Objectives:** To move from conflict avoidance to Conflict Transformation using a holistic model that addresses both interpersonal and systemic fractures. Leaders will learn to identify the underlying roots of a breach and discern the specific restorative steps required to repair what has been broken.
- **Activities:** Participants map a real-life conflict and collaborate with cohort members to workshop practical, Kingdom-oriented steps toward repair and reconciliation.

### **Session 12: Known by Our Love**

- **Objectives:** To transition from individual leadership to a citywide mandate for "The Great Collaboration" and to reflect on Jesus' prayer for unity as a vital evangelistic witness.
- **Activities:** A "**Collaborative Visioning Workshop**" to brainstorm citywide projects that require cross-denominational partnership, concluding with a "Liturgy of Oneness."

**Closing Retreat:** The journey concludes with a retreat focused on collective reflection and a commissioning service, where participants are sent forth as **Ambassadors of Reconciliation**.

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## Key Aspects of Our Curriculum Design

### ◆ A Lab, Not a Lecture

This isn't just a Bible study. It's a lab—a space to experiment with applying your faith in the complexity of where people live, work, and play. This curriculum integrates case studies, role plays, spiritual practices, and honest reflection where we can practice engaging faithfully across lines of difference. We don't dictate where you should land on any given issue—but we do provide a courageous space to listen, learn, and grow spiritually.

### ◆ Meeting the Moment

We are living in a unique and urgent historical moment, and our team has thoughtfully woven insights from Biblical teaching, social psychology, and instructional design into the learning experience. Designed for today's challenges, this small group experience equips Christian leaders to respond with wisdom, courage, and compassion—forming them as peacemakers and reconcilers truly prepared *for such a time as this*.

### ◆ A Deeply Formational Journey

Christian unity can tend to be seen as a surface-level togetherness, but Scripture makes it clear that Christian unity is a deep holistic journey of unity, diversity, justice, reconciliation and repair, towards shalom. The Beloved Community Lab integrates head, heart, and hands through ten core building blocks, including an immersive case study and real-world application. Together, leaders will explore the theological underpinnings and real-life implications of how we can live out God's call in our communities as peacemakers and ambassadors of reconciliation.

### ◆ Leaning into our Differences to Cultivate Healthy Relationships

In today's world, it is easy to remain in comfortable circles, surrounded by those who look, think, and believe alike, often leading to dismissive or hostile views toward others. Even though some churches are diverse, many faith communities remain culturally homogenous. The Beloved Community Lab is built upon Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision for a global family marked by equality, justice, and deep fellowship—a vision far more demanding than mere coexistence or superficial church reconciliation.

This curriculum centers on relationships over agreement by intentionally bringing people together across ethnic, denominational, theological, political, and generational differences. Participants consistently

share that one of the best parts of the cohort is the opportunity to form authentic friendships with those they would otherwise never meet. The group offers a courageous space to listen, learn, wrestle, and grow together as ambassadors of reconciliation, which deepens empathy, understanding, and love for one another, even when participants hold different theological convictions. Ultimately, this cohort seeks to form lasting community support—people to turn to as you pursue the uniting and reconciling way of Jesus, even when the journey is challenging.

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## Core Competencies

Our hope is for participants to be formed as **uniting and reconciling leaders** who foster beloved community by:

- **Embracing deep unity rooted in the imago Dei**, which upholds the dignity and belovedness of all people
  - **Apply a holistic theological framework**, using Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience to reflect on and strengthen each individual's spiritual foundation and relationship with Jesus Christ
  - **Discern the Way of Jesus with the complexity of situations today**, utilizing the Way of Jesus Toolkit and drawing wisdom from diverse Christian traditions and theological streams
  - **Clarify their theological commitments**, creating a community belief chart that distinguishes between core convictions and areas of legitimate diversity for their community
  - **Cultivate Christlike character and self-awareness**, recognizing and transforming righteous hubris into humble curiosity as they hold their own convictions while learning from the perspectives and commitments of others
  - **Practicing listening well** and managing their own triggers with people who come from different backgrounds and hold different positions than them
  - **Identify and navigate conflict constructively**, by understanding the holistic process and steps of reconciliation and the need for all of them
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## Running a Beloved Community Lab: A Guide for Leaders

The Beloved Community Lab is more than a curriculum; it is a "holy experiment" in relational transformation. We've found that the most powerful catalyst for change is **authentic friendship** with those who are different from us. These sessions are designed to bring people together across deep boundaries—ethnic, denominational, theological, political, and generational.

Participants consistently share that the greatest gift of the cohort is the opportunity to form bonds with those they would otherwise never meet. This "courageous space" allows leaders to listen, wrestle, and grow as **ambassadors of reconciliation**, deepening empathy and love even when theological convictions differ.

The curriculum is built for flexibility, allowing groups to either go through the full twelve-session journey or select individual "building blocks".

1. **Twelve-Session Full Journey:** This is the most comprehensive approach, allowing for the deep relational trust needed for the depth of conversation and engagement. It is recommended to meet every two to three weeks between sessions.
2. **A-la-Carte Modules:** For those looking to address specific needs, the curriculum is designed so that individual modules can be deployed as standalone workshops for congregations or denominations.
3. **Ambassador Certification:** Participants who have completed the Lab can be certified to lead specific lessons or the full curriculum as consultants with other groups.

## 1. Core Requirements: What You'll Need

To host a successful session or cohort, ensure you have the following foundational elements in place:

- **A Learner's Heart:** Facilitators and participants must approach the Lab with humility, curiosity, and a willingness to be transformed by the "other."
- **A Consistent Physical Space:** We **strongly recommend meeting in person** rather than on Zoom. Authentic reconciliation requires "embodied" presence—sharing a room, a meal, and non-verbal cues.
- **Good Communication Infrastructure:** Clear, consistent logistics (email, calendar invites, and reminders) are vital to maintaining the commitment of busy leaders.
- **Budgetary Support:**
  - **Food:** Sharing a meal is a core spiritual practice of the Lab. Recommended \$20/person/cohort session for food and drinks
  - **Venue:** Calculate expenses related to renting a space or determining if a church building within your network could be utilized at no or low cost.
  - **Supplies:** Approximately: **\$300** total for binders, printed handouts, and tactile session materials.
  - **Opening and Closing Retreat:** Our strong recommendation is to start the cohort with a day-long retreat (9am to 3pm) and a closing overnight retreat (at least a 24 hour period). This jump-starts relationships and allows space to conclude the cohort.

## 2. Cultivating the Right Cohort

The Lab is built for **intentional diversity**. If your specific congregation or group is fairly homogeneous, we encourage you to partner with another community of a differing background ethnically, generationally, politically, or denominationally.

- **Diverse Church Leaders:** This curriculum was designed for diverse church leaders within a city context, but it can be adapted for lay leaders, non-profits, or neighboring congregations.
- **Small Group Curriculum:** This curriculum can also be used as a small group curriculum within a particular congregation.
- **The "Diversity Mandate":** The cohort should represent a broad spectrum of backgrounds to ensure the "tension" necessary for growth is present in the room.

## 3. Readiness Assessment: Is Your Community Ready?

Before launching, evaluate the "spiritual soil" of your group. The Lab is most effective when the following are true:

- **Existing Tension:** There is a recognized difference or tension within the group, coupled with a genuine **desire to go deeper** rather than avoid the conflict.
- **Intentionality:** Participants are not just "showing up," but are interested in intentional conversation and active engagement across their differences.
- **Leadership Stability:** The Lab is a space for growth, but it is **not a crisis intervention tool**.
- \* **Note:** This curriculum is **not recommended** for communities currently undergoing acute internal trauma or significant leadership scandals. The group must have enough stability to hold the weight of the "Lab" work.

#### 4. The Posture and Role of the Facilitator

Your role is not to be the "expert with all the answers," but the **curator of the environment**. While the lessons are rich, the transformation happens when people receive from one another. As the facilitator, it's important not to rush to resolve disagreements. Let the "Centered-Set" model guide the group toward Jesus, even when boundaries remain.

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#### Training and Coaching with UniteBoston

UniteBoston offers a tiered training and coaching model designed to move leaders from initial exposure to the **Beloved Community Lab** toward becoming certified practitioners. Because every ministry context has a unique history, we adapt our approach to meet your specific interests and needs.

During this current expansion stage, we are building a **nationwide community of practice** and are pleased to offer **free coaching calls and reduced consulting rates**.

#### Engagement Opportunities

- **Readiness Assessment & Executive Coaching:** Before launching a cohort, UniteBoston provides coaching to evaluate your "spiritual soil." We help leaders identify clear goals, navigate current tensions, and ensure the community is prepared for the deep work of the Lab.
- **Customized Training Modules:** We can facilitate specific "building blocks" from the curriculum as standalone workshops for staff teams, denominations, or local clusters of churches.
- **Expert On-Site Facilitation:** Our staff or Lead Fellows provide expert guidance to help your group navigate high-stakes role-plays and case studies, ensuring a safe and productive "brave space."
- **Cohort Coaching & Co-Facilitation:** For leaders ready to host their own Lab, we provide real-time feedback and co-leading opportunities. We walk alongside you to build your confidence and skill as a facilitator of reconciliation.

**Interested in bringing a Lab to your city or church?** Reach out to us directly to start the conversation.

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## A Vision of Success

**We envision church leaders who are equipped as reconcilers**—grounded in Scripture, attuned to injustice, and able to lead with humility and courage across difference. They treat conflict as an opportunity for growth and embody a deep, Christ-centered unity rooted in the *imago Dei*.

**We envision congregations that reflect the beloved community**—engaging hard conversations with grace, and becoming places of healing, justice, and spiritual transformation.

**We envision a culture shift in the wider Church**—where Christians are known not by division, but by loving like Jesus did, and where we become a collective signpost of God's shalom in a fractured world.

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## Join the "Holy Experiment"

We are actively refining the **Beloved Community Lab** and invite you to join this journey. By partnering with us, you help adapt these tools for diverse contexts while joining a growing network of leaders committed to embodying the way of Jesus in a polarized time.

Our dream is to foster a national network of **Ambassadors of Reconciliation** (2 Corinthians 5:16–21) dedicated to unity, justice, and peacemaking. By equipping leaders with our frameworks, we cultivate a supportive community of practice that lives out these principles in daily leadership. Through annual gatherings and regular connection, these ambassadors receive the tools and encouragement needed to nurture "beloved community" across the country.

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## Conclusion

Dr. King's vision of the "beloved community" echoes God's call for the Church to live as one body—marked by sacrificial love, justice, and a commitment to the *Imago Dei* in every person. Our ultimate hope is for a unified and reconciled Church that lives for the glory of God and the flourishing of the world.

The **Beloved Community Lab** is more than a leadership program; it is an invitation to follow Jesus more faithfully in this cultural moment. It is a path that leans into differences without fear, approaches conflict with grace, and demonstrates Christlike love across every boundary.

We believe now is the time for followers of Jesus to embrace the ministry of reconciliation. In a fractured world, God calls His people to be peacemakers who hold fast to truth with love. We look forward to partnering with you as a living witness of God's kingdom!

## Let's connect:

- **Rev. Kelly Fassett**, Executive Director: [kelly@uniteboston.com](mailto:kelly@uniteboston.com)
  - **Rev. Devlin Scott**, Managing Director: [devlin@uniteboston.com](mailto:devlin@uniteboston.com)
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## Biblical Foundations

- **John 17:21–23**

*“That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”*

*“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.”*

→ Jesus prays for a deep, divine unity among his followers—so that the world may know God’s love.

- **2 Corinthians 5:18, 20**

*“God...reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”*

*“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”*

→ Reconciliation is not just a gift we receive—it’s a mission we carry, as Christ’s representatives.

- **Isaiah 58:6, 12**

*“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen...to loose the chains of injustice...and to set the oppressed free?”*

*“You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”*

→ God calls us to embody worship through justice—repairing what has been broken in society and relationships.

- **1 Corinthians 12:12, 26**

*“Just as a body, though one, has many parts... so it is with Christ.”*

*“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it.”*

→ The Church is one body made up of many parts—unity honors difference and shares in each other’s joy and pain.

- **Ephesians 2:14–15**

*“He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier...”*

*“His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.”*

→ Through the cross, Jesus dismantles the walls of hostility and forms a new, reconciled humanity.

- **John 13:35**

*“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”*

→ Christian love is the ultimate public witness—the “greatest apologetic”—that demonstrates to the world we are Christ’s disciples and validates the message of the gospel

## Inspiration for our Work

“The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men.”  
-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.<sup>1</sup>

“Love for those who are like us is ordinary. Love for those who are unlike us is extraordinary. Love for those who dislike us is revolutionary. This is the kind of love that our Lord God calls us to.”  
-Unknown Author

“Holiness is easy if you don’t care about unity. Unity is easy if you don’t care about holiness. Somehow the church has to hold both of these together.” - NT Wright

“For the first Christians, love was *the* sign that they were God’s children (1 Jn 4:7)... In other words, *love was the mark of the Christian church*. Failure to love was seen as a blatant denial of Christ... This love, more than anything else, was their greatest apologetic.”<sup>2</sup>  
-John Armstrong

“Churches should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately.”<sup>3</sup>  
-Lund Principle

“Christian unity is not achieved by paper declarations of theological agreement and formal expressions of mutual recognition; it is achieved only when those ‘in each place’ who have been separated begin to live together as one people of God ‘in one full committed fellowship.’”<sup>4</sup>  
-David Yeago

“We don’t know when the agreement will come... We must continue to study theology, to clarify the details, but in the meantime we must walk together, not wait for those things to be resolved in order to walk...It gives me comfort when I find this: the outstretched hand, the fraternal embrace, thinking together, and walking. Ecumenism is accomplished by walking. Let us walk.”<sup>5</sup>  
-Pope Francis

“Christ the Lord founded one Church and one Church only. However, many Christian communions present themselves to men as the true inheritors of Jesus Christ; all indeed profess to be followers of the Lord but differ in mind and go their different ways, as if Christ Himself were divided. Such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature.”<sup>6</sup>  
- Unitatis Redintegratio." The Second Vatican Council.

“If Christians can’t speak about reconciliation, they can’t speak about anything.”  
-Corymeela Community in Northern Ireland

*“Lord Jesus Christ, you prayed: “May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me, and I in you. May they be one, so that the world might believe. We pray that the body of Christ might be united in you. Break down what stands between us. Strengthen what unites us. Give victory over what separates us. Fill us with the power of your Spirit, that we might seek ways to unite with each other. God, as we meet others in their difference, give us the humility to listen, the patience to explain, and the courage to be vulnerable, so that others may encounter you through us and we may find you again in them. Bring about the day when we can praise you together, in the fellowship of all who believe. Amen.”*

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<sup>1</sup> Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1957 sermon titled “Loving Your Enemies,” delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama; later published in his book *Strength to Love* (1963)

<sup>2</sup> John Armstrong, *Costly Love: The Way to True Unity for All the Followers of Jesus*, 190.

<sup>3</sup> “The Lund Principle.” The Third World Conference on Faith and Order, Lund, Sweden, 1952.

<sup>4</sup> David S. Yeago, "The Ecclesial Context of Ecumenical Reception: A Case Study," in *The Ecumenical Future*, ed. Carl E. Braaten and Robert W. Jenson (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004), 39.

<sup>5</sup> Pope Francis. 2018. “Together on the Road to Unity: Ecumenism Is Accomplished by Walking Together.” *L’Osservatore Romano* (Online) 2550 (June): 12.

<sup>6</sup>“Unitatis Redintegratio." The Second Vatican Council. November 21, 1964.

<sup>7</sup> Adaptation of the "Wittenburg 2017 Prayer" formulated for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, <http://www.wittenburg2017.us/prayers.html> combined with Paul Avis’ adaptation of a prayer from the Chapel of Scottish Churches’ House, Dunblane. Paul Avis’ prayer is stated in *Reshaping Ecumenical Theology: The Church Made Whole?*, 79.