

## Circle Structure Variations

### **Standard Circle**

Pass a talking piece sequentially from one participant to the next.

### **Wagon Wheel**

Two concentric circles with inside circle partner facing outside circle partner. After they discuss a circle question, new partners are formed by rotating one circle to the left. This is a lively way to engage large groups.

### **Spiral Circle**

Small inside circle of about eight participants. Larger outside witnessing circle. Inside circle participant #1 speaks, then passes talking piece to #2 and listens to their answer. When #2 passes to #3, #1 leaves the inside circle to join the outside circle. Someone from the outside circle joins the inside circle. This provides an intimate circle experience in large groups, while still engaging the witnessing circle.

### **World Cafe Circle**

Multiple circles in a room, each answering a different circle question and facilitator posts themes. Once the groups have completed their circles, they rotate to the next location answering the new prompt and adding to the already posted themes. Typically used for group brainstorming.

### **Intergroup Circle**

Inside circle based on one identity/Outside based on another (e.g., white people/people of color). Outside circle witnesses the inside circle dialogue. The groups then reverse positions. Outside circle may also be prompted after witnessing to ask questions/offer observations between rounds. Typically used for intergroup dialogues of understanding.

### **Appreciation Circle**

Standard circle but participant #1 speaks directly to participant #2, #2 to #3, and so on, often responding to an appreciation prompt, such as why they would like to co-facilitate with them or one way the person has enhanced the community. Used for community building and social support.