### **The Beloved Community:**

#### **Engaging Student Leaders through Diversity**

**Presented By** 

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The Fenn School, Concord MA

Presented at the IBSC Annual Conference, Baltimore MD on June 27th , 2017

# The Beloved Community

"Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require qualitative change in our souls and quantitative change in our lives."

# Listening Exercise

(in groups of 4, with a phone or watch to keep time)

- One person shares a 2-minute story of a time they stood up for something or someone based on principle.
- The other three people in the group listen for different things: 1) actions 2) values, and 3) emotions.
- Each listener has up to 1 minute to say what they heard.



# Listening Roles



- Listen for ACTIONS (who, what, when, where, how)
- Listen for INTENTIONS and VALUES (what values, commitments, or intentions shape the speaker's actions, decisions, or perspective)
- Listen for **EMOTIONS** (how the speaker feels about her/his actions or choices)

#### **Our School**



The Fenn School - Concord, MA 330 boys, grades 4-9

## Fenn School Core Values



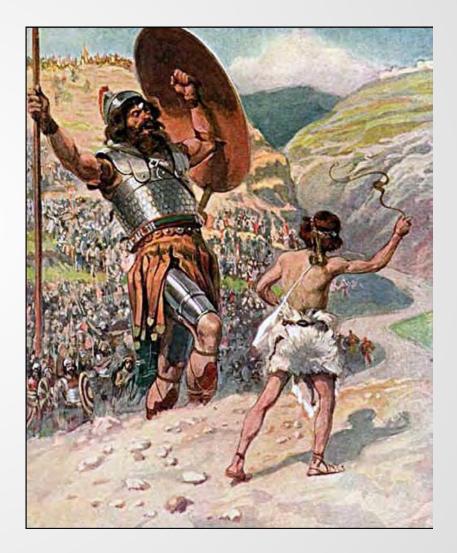
#### COURAGE HONESTY EMPATHY RESPECT

# EDUCATE RESPONSIBLE LEADERS

The Fenn educational program should foster in students the knowledge, perspective, and skills necessary to lead in a diverse world. The Fenn community should maintain a culture of inclusivity, access, respectfulness, and equity in its values, policies, and practices.

#### Fenn Structures: "Use What You've Got"

- Daily All-School Meetings
- Respecting Differences Days etc
- Lunch time meetings
- Public speaking competitions
- Assemblies
- Community building events
- Student Committees
- Conferences



# Student Diversity Committee

- Charge for SDC members
- Guidelines / ground rules for discussions
- Identity: The Mask We Wear
- Communication Skills
- Presentation Skills / Public
  Speaking
- Identify a challenge
- Analyze
- Take Action (Sense of Agency)



# Student Leadership Opportunities

- Lead Workshops at Annual Cultural Arts Festival
- Facilitate Discussion With Parents and Faculty about Difficult Conversations
- Sing, Dance, and Recite during annual Martin Luther King Assembly
- Present to Faculty about student and family organized Service Learning trip to Jamaica



### **Communication skills**



# **Diversity Committees Initiatives**

Fund Raising In Support of blind students in Ghana

Participate in annual WW Fenn Speaking Contest

Conduct an Audit of Accesssibility for Disabilities on Campus

Present at AISNE (Regional) Diversity Conferences



## Video & Anecdotes

• Student testimonials

## Discussion

- How has your school inspired students to lead and monitor the climate of your school?
- In what ways has your institution developed leadership skills and character in boys?
- What practices are needed to develop in boys a sense of responsibility toward the "beloved community?"

#### Reflection

"A leader is best when people barely know he exists. When his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves." —Lao Tzu

## **Presenter Contact Information**

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