

# CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Conversations that Matter are Online Gatherings of Bay Area Leaders of Faith + Nationally Recognized Thought Leaders Designed to Spark Dialogue Around the Big Questions that Impact Spiritual Life in the Bay Area.

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# Post Pandemic Marketplace Ministry

This resource is a companion to the Conversation that Matters on marketplace ministry post-pandemic to guide your ministry within a workplace that is recovering from the impact of COVID-19.

Moderator:

Toby Kurth, Director of Multiply, TBC

Panelists:

Denise Lee Yohn, Founder & Director, [Faith & Work Journey](#)

Roy Tinklenberg, Co-Founder and Chief Vision Officer, [Faith & Work Movement](#)

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***Sequestered in our homes for more than two years has had a massive impact on the workplace and the marketplace. From the Great Resignation to Quiet Quitting to Loud Layoffs the landscape of work has changed. How can Christ-followers continue to live out their faith in the workplace in this post-pandemic world?***

“Business and corporate leaders are a lot more influential now than they have been at any other time in our history.”

-Denise Lee Yohn

According to the [Edelman Trust Barometer](#) business leaders are more trusted than the government and the media.

## **Marketplace Ministry is About Connection**

Faith & Work Journey offers spiritual formation and transformative professional development experiences in life giving community to enable people to not only reevaluate how they look at their work, but reconsider how they do their work by answering the question, **how can I connect my work life, church life, and personal life?**

***“We realized that Faith & Work Movement was connected to Christians in Silicon Valley companies, but those Christians are not connected to each other.”***

- Roy Tinklenberg

Faith & Work Movement started inter-company events called [workplace worship](#) gatherings to bring believers together within the company organizations.

## **Build Connection in the Hybrid Workplace**

26% of U.S. employees work remotely, although more and more people are returning to offices. Engaging remote workers is an opportunity to create new networks in other cities led by people you already know and trust.

“Building connection starts with understanding that just showing up for Zoom meetings, sending emails, or using Slack is not enough to build authentic relationships.”

- Denise Lee Yohn

- Create in-person events for people who are hungry for face-to-face community.
- Sustain virtual events for those you've built relationship with during the pandemic you want to continue to support.
- Be deliberate and intentional about relationship building.
- Check in with your remote colleagues off Zoom via text, private Slack message
- Find little things to connect that lead to deeper conversation and interaction

## Connect Work with Spiritual Development

**“Generally, in our culture, there’s been a pull-back from the desire to get your identity and purpose from work. Work is no longer filling the God-shaped hole in their hearts.”**

**-Denise Lee Yohn**

We’re still experiencing the impact of the global pandemic on the workplace, but it’s a prime time to reassessing the relationship to work and develop a healthy perspective of work.

Those believers who are losing their jobs have an understanding that their identity is not solely rooted in their job.

- Help them confirm their identity and security is in Christ.
- Be pastoral to those people who are impacted by the layoffs or anxious about potential future layoffs.
- Step into that space and be there to listen to them.
- Do whatever you can to help them in this time.

**“Saying, ‘our relationship matters. I want to continue to invest in you,’ goes a long way to comfort those who have been affected by layoffs and those who may not have been laid off but are struggling with survivor’s guilt.”**

**-Denise Lee Yohn**

- Being there for each other, offering words of prayer and encouragement are important.

## Connect Through Authenticity

**“Co-workers want to know who you are. They want you to show up as you, to share your victories as well as your struggles and challenges and to be honest about how you’re processing things and your perspectives.”**

**-Denise Lee Yohn**

- Bring authenticity and transparency to relationships
- Be the first to speak up and open up.
- Share struggles to create the safe place others need to be authentic themselves.'

**“When we discover that somebody has been laid off or is struggling with anxiety, respond in that moment.” -Roy Tinklenberg**

- Be less task oriented for the moment and embrace the distraction.
- Be people oriented in that moment
- Offer prayer to both Christian and non-Christian colleagues.
- Lean into their struggle and struggle with them.

**“Offering prayer is an expression of authentically caring and helps people feel cared for and listened to.” -Roy Tinklenberg**

## **For Pastors to Equip People in the Marketplace**

**“There’s a desire for church gatherings, but the bar is much higher in terms of the relevance of the experience, the content and the type of experience.”**

**-Denise Lee Yohn**

People want the post-pandemic church experiences to be more interactive and engaging.

**“313 days of the year are spent outside of church. We want to make sure that what people are learning is relevant to their day-to-day experience.”**

**- Denise Lee Yohn**

**“As pastors, we often fail to understand how important the work world is to our congregation. God is giving you the opportunity to equip them for works of ministry.”**

**- Roy Tinklenberg**

The training and equipping happening in the church ends up in the workplace.

- Connect what you’re teaching back to their work
- Give the opportunity to interact with what they’re learning.
- Combine teaching with dialogue and conversation.

**Revival in the Bay Area will start in the workplace. The goodness of the Gospel and total flourishing could be transformative not only for the Bay Area, but for these companies and culture all around the world.”**

**- Roy Tinklenberg**