

Bioneers' Council Sessions and Talking Circles – an overview

[2:00 pm PST on 12/5, 12/6, 12/12 and 12/13: Council/Talking Circle: Prayer & Action – Healing Ourselves, Our Relations, with this Earth: Eight Identity-based Council & Talking Circle Sessions](#)

Full session descriptions are available here: <https://conference.bioneers.org/council-session/>

Council Session

INVITATION TO COUNCIL

Join with fellow Bioneers in council, to explore this question: “How do we respond now, in these times, with our continued prayer and action to engage in the healing of ourselves, our relations with others and this Earth?” The circles offered will be identity-based and/or multicultural, multigenerational — all identities welcome — sessions to ask questions, listen deeply, share story, bear witness to changing times, and weave the world anew. Join for one day, or, ideally, join the same group each day in an arc of inquiry. On the fourth day, all participants will meet in one large circle, with the hosts centered, offering community witness, insights and highlights from the circles.

Bioneers 2020 will feature a variety of circle ways, including [Talking Circles](#) and the [practice of council](#). The heart of these practices – listening, learning, living and thinking like a circle – are needed now, more than ever in our nation and around the world.

We envision these circles as spaces where people can gather for deep listening and emergent wisdom. Each circle will provide an opportunity to sit with others and share perspectives arising through this time of so much change and challenge. Our intent in centering identities is not to create separation, but instead to invoke wholeness and healing, through respecting the pluralism of experiences that coexist. Group sizes will vary as will circle forms, all with shared intention to speak and listen from the heart, one at a time. Bearing witness is essential in this practice and many may choose not to speak, instead offering their presence as participation. We will provide a space for being present with what is invoked in this time, and exploring our commitments to weave the fabric of the future.

Sessions will be co-hosted by experienced circle holders, traditional peoples and practitioners, including **Iarion Merculieff**, Aleut traditional messenger; **Sharon Shay Sloan**, co-director of The Ojai Foundation; and **Gigi Coyle** of Beyond Boundaries.



Ilarion Merculieff



Sharon Shay Sloan



Gigi Coyle

“Circle is both an ancient way and a modern practice whose roots are found within the natural world, within diverse cultures, and in contemporary organizations. Circles have been called, inspired and informed by many cultures over time, with the aim of healing, learning, growing and transforming. Many people have forgotten how to listen, speak and co-create across divergent experiences. It seems no accident that circle practices have emerged, been remembered and reclaimed over and over again on different continents amongst different cultures and are reemerging as essential in modern times. From families to communities to schools to restorative justice to workplaces, circle practices are helping reshape how we relate to each other, in both new and old ways.

As pressures increase on all life systems, including human communities, we need to shift our consciousness to negotiate an unknown future. The collective wisdom found in circle is key to this process. By removing the social barriers that keep us separate, circle both honors our differences and elicits the kind of listening that brings instant recognition that we are all, in fact, related.”

~ Gigi Coyle, Ilarion Merculieff & Sharon Shay Sloan

Sessions

How do we respond now, in these times, with our continued prayer and action to engage in the healing of ourselves, our relations with others and this Earth?

Guides for our Council/Talking Circle Sessions ([bios and pix of all guides are here](#))

Indigenous: Jeannette Armstrong, Marlowe Sam, Paloma Flores

BIPOC and Mixed Race: Brendan Clarke, Luis Rodriguez, Ladybird Morgan

LGBTQ+ and Gender Non-Binary: Kristin Rothballer, Shlomo Pesach

Women and Female-Identified: Anita Sanchez, Pat McCabe, Samara Gaev

Men and Male-Identified: Jerry Tello, Will Scott

White and White-Passing: Dave Hage, Libby Roderick, Justine Epstein

All Identities Welcome: Ilarion Mercurieff, Sharon Shay Sloan

All Identities Welcome, with Intergenerational emphasis on Youth & Elders: Gigi Coyle, Orland Bishop, Tokata (*Future*) Iron Eyes

Please note:

In order to register for a council session, it's necessary to first register for the keynotes and panels.

Thank you for considering, and being part of the web of interbeing, weaving the world anew.

(this is a technical glitch we cannot change now)

If you do so, you'll have access to the keynotes and panels till 12/31, though the interactive sessions and councils will only be live on 12/5,6, 12 and 13.

If money is tight, please [request a scholarship](#), as anyone who asks will receive one.