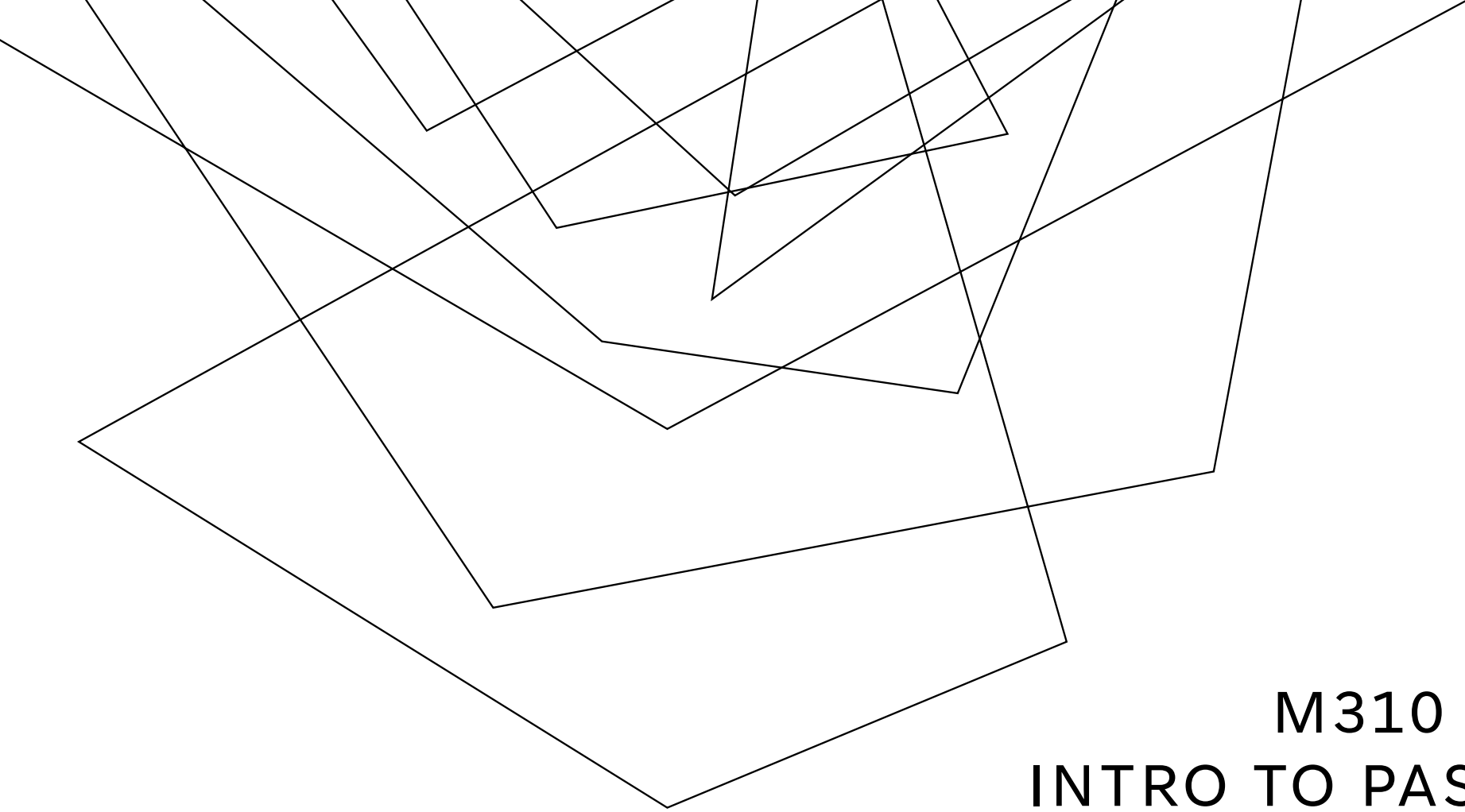




M310 SPRING 2024
INTRO TO PASTORAL CARE
FINAL CASE STUDY
ROBERT TONEY

INTRODUCTION

Jayden and I “met” after an episode in my church’s gym. Having been in seminary for three years and being given the title “Minister” earlier this year, pastoral care was not on my radar as a service I would provide. My traditional view is pastoral care is something Deacons do. But, as the saying goes: “When the student is ready, the teacher appears.” This is what Jesus confirms in our Gospel passage when he said: “No one can come to me unless the Father draws him.” (John 6:44). Jayden and I are now face to face anxious about who will be teaching who...

BACKGROUND - CARE SEEKER

- Jayden is 14 years old; 7th grade Russel Elementary School. He's about 5'9", 118 lbs. which makes him large for his age.
- Average student but struggles with English and Reading. He has had disciplinary issues in the past but generally well behaved.
- Lives in apartment with mother, Cassandra, and shares bedroom with older brother, Brayden, 16. Information about father is not available. He attends church with his mother and brother, grandparents and cousins.
- He has been diagnosed and treated for ADHD, having had previous episodes of violence against others and himself when he is not on Strattera (atomoxetine), an FDA recommended stimulant that helps control hyperactivity in children over six.

BACKGROUND – CARE GIVER

- Rob is 58 years old; Studying ministry after 30 years of corporate finance and audit experience. Holds a BA in Economics/ Math from Northwestern University, MBA from DePaul University, and certificate in project management from Villanova University.
- Lives in the house he grew up in with mother, after living in five different states in US, London and Paris. His father died when he was 9 and mother never re-married. Rob is widowed after his Husband of 13 years was shot in the back by a 14-year-old boy during a hate crime incident in Norfolk, VA, in 2018.

CASE STUDY – BACKGROUND CONTEXT

Jayden and his family are members of a sister congregation who lost their church in a tragic fire in December 2023. His congregation is now seeking to merge churches with our historic congregation, as we have been lacking a Senior Pastor since ours unexpectedly died in January 2023 (he was only 41 years old). I am the Chairperson for this merger activity.

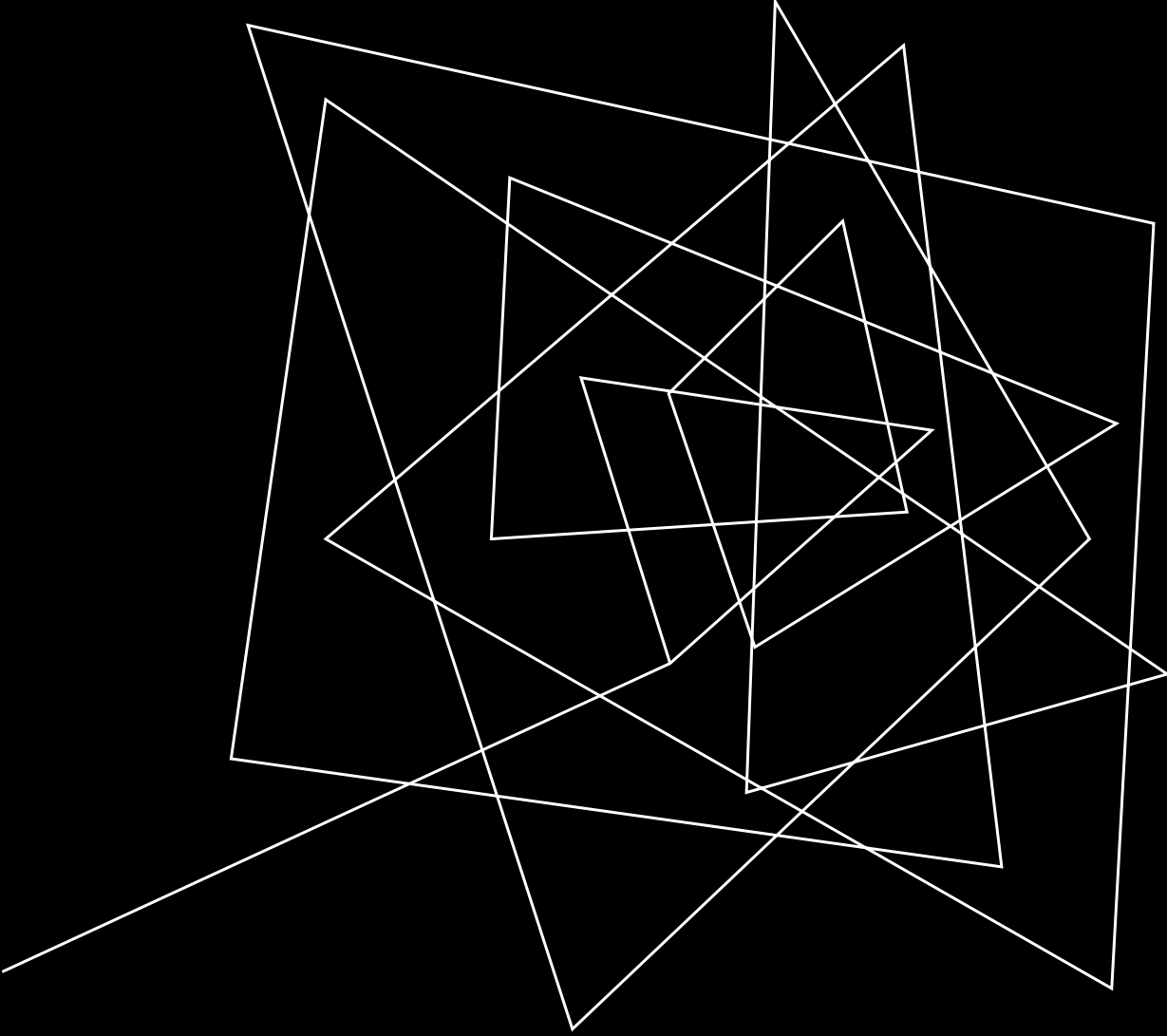
Our congregational make-up is different from our sister church. We are a more seasoned church with an average age of 73, we own our own building debt-free. We have historically been a pillar in the community for 71 years with an impressive list of members that include politicians, scholars, business leaders and professionals in an upper-middle class Black environment. Our sister, is much younger with an average age of 46. Their mission is community focused with monthly homeless activities and food pantry. Some of their members are from the streets navigating housing insecurity, former incarceration or abusive trauma. Their worship style is much more energized than our conservative style. The congregational vote is at the end of April 2024.

Jayden and his brother got into an altercation in our dilapidated gym on the third floor of our building 2 weeks ago. It has been at least a decade since anyone has been in the gym as there is no elevator access and major water damage from the leaking façade.

During the altercation, Jayden became very active, violently cursing and lashing out against his brother, his mother, his Senior Pastor and our own Deacons and Ushers. A cry rang out to call the Police. As I began dialing, Jayden approached me, cursing my name and violently threatening my life.

Though I decided not to follow through with the Police call, this situation has built a strained environment between the two congregations whose relationship was already delicate. With myself as the lead for the merger committee, all eyes are on how I approach this situation and how I (with God) manage the harm it has caused.





START UNPACKING

- Pastoral Care topic identified in Midterm
- Genogram – what is happening in his family? What can I relate to from my own?
- Intersectionality – How does his social location impact his sense of self? How does it influence mine?
- Countertransference – How am I to balance between how far we are apart and how similar our paths cross?
- Theological Reflexivity & Intersectional Analysis – How do we achieve the freedom of repentance?



FROM THE MIDTERM – MY PASTORAL CARE MISSION

I have worked with men who are lost, tired and depressed. I have lost friends too soon to heart conditions and mental ailments. I've seen the "bottle" empty the pulpit because there was no where else my brother has thought they could turn.

I would like to build for us:

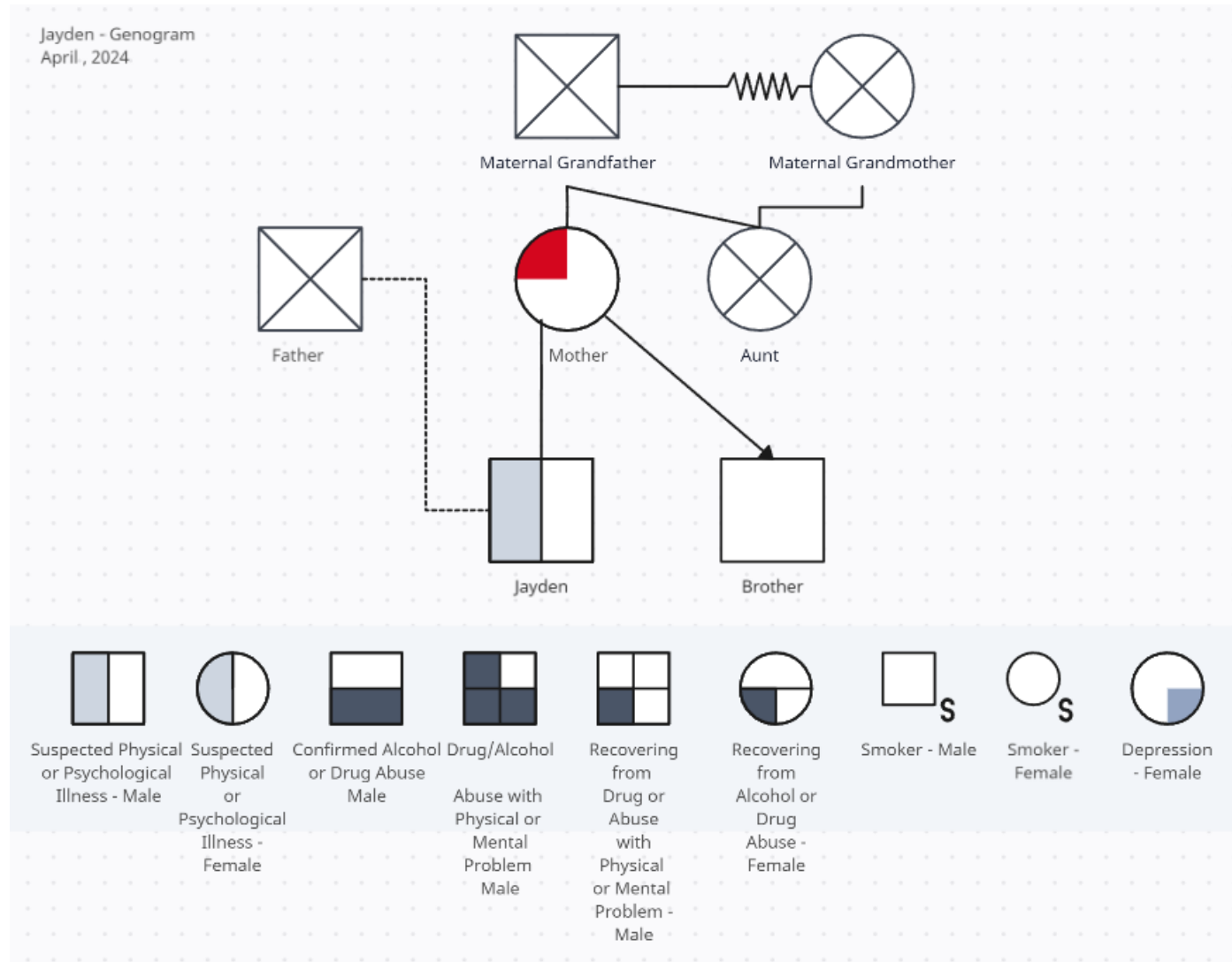
- 1) awareness of the current state of trauma black men face mentally,
- 2) safe environments to explore our talents and our shortcomings,
- 3) tools to manage our life of ministry so that we give God the Glory, serve our communities, but not at the price of sacrificing our lives.

We have the opportunity to give our whole healthy selves to God, the community, the world.

Using different narrative approaches as described by Joretta Marshall and Christie Neuger's book, Lay Pastoral Care, we can begin by forming our own listening circles, relational care, self-care "barbershops", and focused retreats, to purposefully build networks that are more than just contact sharing, but deep meaningful conversations and commitments to support brotherhoods where we work, fight, build and worship together!

Jayden is a Black, young man. We need each other...

FAMILY - GENOGRAM



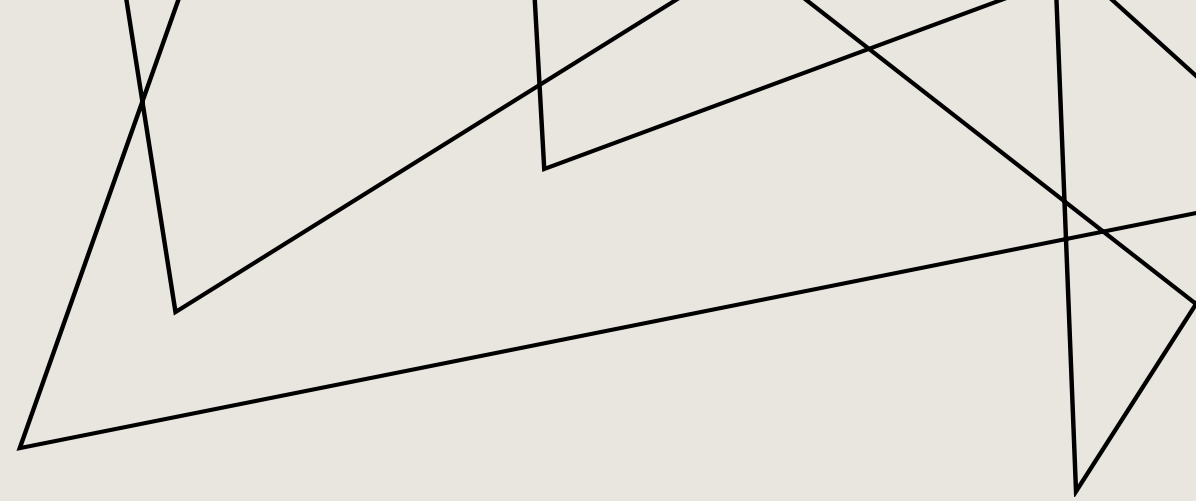
- Jayden does not have a relationship with his father. He and his brother do not share the same father and his mother does not speak of either. Her father, the boys' grandfather serves as the paternal figure of the family but is not daily involved. Jayden's mother and grandmother are his closest adult supervision.
- Jayden and his brother are close with normal sibling rivalry. They can become violent with each other but are ok after a cool off period.
- Jayden is an introvert that does not openly express himself. He does have an unbridled temper and lack of respect for elders as reflected in some his remarks and references towards his mother.

WHAT DOES GENOGRAM TELL ME?

- There may be a lack of male direction in Jayden's life. Not that I feel it is a disadvantage, I also grew up without a defined father figure, so I can relate and share resources (i.e. boy scouts, team sports, church)
- There may be a sense of guilt or shame for not having a father at home. Again, I grew up with that feeling at times and it caused me to act out in anger, especially to my siblings.
- Casandra, Jayden's mother may want to talk to someone about her care. Not assuming she needs or wants assistance, but the offer may be welcomed and may set an example for both her sons.
- The presence of a psychological diagnosis makes me cautious not to drift into a therapist role I am not qualified to address. I should be ready with external resources if needed or refer him to his current doctor.

PASTORAL CONCERNS

- Role of the Faith Community
- Christian Behavior Development
- Belonging – Inclusion in the Body of Christ
- Community Commitment – church and neighborhood
- Value of Elder Mentorship



INTERSECTIONALITY

How does Jayden's social location impact his sense of self, understanding of pastoral care? (Flipbook slide 5)

How does it influence my preconceived bias and approach to pastoral care?

	Race	Age	Class	Gender/Identity
Jayden	Black	14	Lower Middle	Straight?
Rob	Black	58	Middle	SGL
	Trauma	Fatherless	Anger Management Issues	Female Dominate Upbringing
Jayden	Violence	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rob	Violence	Yes	Yes	Yes

COUNTERTRANSFERENCE (FLIP P6)

Resource: Carrie Doehring, Chpt 2
Healthy Interdependence

Jayden

- Student, Cool, introvert
- Puberty, aggressive
- Swag

With you
but
distant
from you

Rob:

- Educated, Old School, Sheltered
- SGL, Cautious
- Conservative

PROCESS

6 GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

The CDC's [Center for Preparedness and Response \(CPR\)](#), in collaboration with SAMHSA's [National Center for Trauma-Informed Care \(NCTIC\)](#), developed and led a new training for CPR employees about the role of trauma-informed care during public health emergencies. The training aimed to increase responder awareness of the impact that trauma can have in the communities where they work.

Participants learned SAMHSA'S six principles that guide a trauma-informed approach, including:



Adopting a trauma-informed approach is not accomplished through any single particular technique or checklist. It requires constant attention, caring awareness, sensitivity, and possibly a cultural change at an organizational level. On-going internal organizational assessment and quality improvement, as well as engagement with community stakeholders, will help to imbed this approach which can be augmented with organizational development and practice improvement. The training provided by [CPR](#) and [NCTIC](#) was the first step for CDC to view emergency preparedness and response through a trauma-informed lens.

STRATEGY FOR NEXT STEPS

- Safety – Three circles
 1. Small group circle of men – focus on individual and collective security.
 2. Family/ support circle
 3. Pastoral – Jayden and I plus one.
- Circle of Men – Get Jayden involved and comfortable with something related to his issue but not directed toward him specifically. Let him be a part of something bigger for the community to help him understand the context.
- Family circle – address issue but focus on commitments for repairing the harm and making better decisions. Using Narrative Therapy, allow Jayden and his family to share what happens in these situations, and listen for the exceptions. Jayden is not “bad” but there is an energy that gets released and he may need help in discovering healthier choices.
- Once trustworthiness begins to form – schedule Pastoral Circle. Strategy = “first do no harm” for either of us. Be confident in your ministry to help, but not arrogant in your skill or power to rescue. Understand my Self-Care, Accountability, Boundaries and Strategic Plan. (slide 15-19, Flipbook)

THEOLOGICAL REFLEXIVITY& INTERSECTIONAL ANALYSIS (Doehring, chpt 5&7)

GOD TALK

- *Where do we feel God fits in our incident?
What would He want us to do next?*

MEANING MAKING

- *What does Christianity mean to you? Does it affect your daily decisions?*

INTERSECTIONAL ANALYSIS

- *How do we both experience God through the lens of our age, race, etc.?
How are we alike and different?*
- *What can I commit to you that will help you know God and yourself? What can you help me with?*

YOU

GOAL

Help all Black Men – One at a Time Understand...

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give
to you; not as the world gives do I give
to you. Let not your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid.”*

John 14:27

- *“Always leave people better than you found them. Hug the hurt. Befriend the lost. Love the lonely.” TobyMac*

