

LCLI UPDATE 2018-JUNE

A book, a new Fellow

"Speak Life" A new book you will get

Gary Gunderson has just published one of his immensely creative books written in his inimitable style and, as the title makes clear, it is right down the street of the LCL Initiative. As an LCLI Fellow you will be receiving a copy. Meanwhile, here is the blog he has written about it – and some other developments of significance for us.

From Gary Gunderson

I wish I was handing you this in person in a decent restaurant with a bit more ceremony involved. But I didn't want to wait to get my new book in your hands.

Speak Life: Crafting Mercy in a Hard-Hearted Time, is written for you, who have given your life to advance the health and wellbeing of the places and neighbors you love. Like you, most of the people captured by such a movement persist year after year for decades sustained by shared spirit, intelligence and sweat. I hope this new book will deepen and strengthen your energy for that movement.

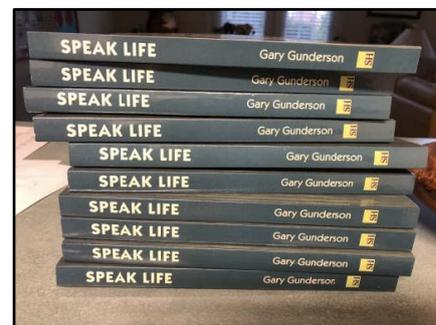
Speak Life is being released in Orlando June 20 at the **Distinguished Lecture Series** sponsored by Florida Hospitals, one of our Stakeholder Health partners. Most of the speakers and all of the audience are distinguished by their people and places they care about and the Spirit that carries them.

If you've read my other stuff, you'll recognize echoes of *Boundary Leaders* and the earlier *Deeply Woven Roots*. And of course, *Leading Causes of Life* and the Fellows Jim Cochrane leads. *Speak Life* is a more radical take on both leadership and Spirit. I'm quite sure you've experienced the same dramatic move yourself in these hardhearted times.

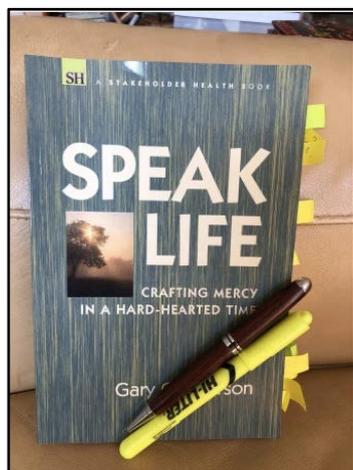
Speak Life is published by Stakeholder Press and all the profits go to **Stakeholder Health**. This is a learning group tracing back ten years to the tough streets of Memphis, Detroit, San Bernardino, Bithlo and several times at the White House (back a couple of years). *Speak Life* is, in a sense, a radical view of the life of leaders that undergirds our earlier book, *Insights from New Systems of Health*. Nearly all of those practices demand grit and courage to cross over many lines of discipline and institutional politics.

The learning is accelerating: we will be releasing a third in the Fall that is more technical exploration of how the Leading Causes helps us understand how to organize and set priorities for our work in community. And then we really do put the pedal down in November in a bold "See2See Road Trip" traveling from San Diego to Raleigh: the move in movement.

Jerry Winslow, the Chair of the Stakeholder Health Advisory Group, writes in the forward: "From one perspective, the movement might appear to be merely the sharing of smart approaches to what is now called population health. But a more careful look, with focused attention to the spirit of the work, reveals something deeper and more lasting. It is life-giving joy in the hard work of the journey toward social justice. The real fuel for this movement is the conviction that together we can build communities in which every person counts, where no one is left out, and no one suffers needlessly because of institutionalized



Oh, it's available on Amazon for \$15. [Here](#).



Thank god for critical readers, editors, fact-checkers and proof-readers! Ray Tetz's amazing team led by Alberto Valenzuela and Becky De Oliveriera and our home team, especially Tom Peterson, Jim Cochrane, Maria Parries and, of course, TC.

unfairness. To speak life, then, is to adopt the ways of life so that every person is celebrated by a community that genuinely cares.”

I want you to see *Speak Life* in the light of all of that highly collaborative learning. Writing is about the least impressive—undistinguished—thing you can do with a large number of hours. It is typing, often with a lot of silence between the clicks. When I slowed down, I thought of all the astonishing people who were generally not typing, but lending their lives to the urgency of mercy and justice. I tried to see what matters most through those many eyes.

I'm like one of the nameless grey neurons way back behind the eyeballs trying to connect the signals those many eyes are seeing. I'm not qualified to do very much useful most days, but I am privileged to work among wide extended webs of those who know what to do in the middle of the night standing with the First Responders at a suicide with weeping parents, who build a school for young women in the fire and dust of Kabul, who do surgery, administration,

therapy, research and discovery into the mysteries of molecules and neighborhoods. Some of those agents are named Big Dog (the benevolent gang leader in 38109 of Memphis) and R. Ernest Cohen, the Jewish Integrative Medicine Chiropractor who runs a free clinic in Wilkesboro so frugal it borrows its Wifi signal from the tattoo parlor next door. Richard Joyner with his anointed prophetic tractor, the weekly amazements of Oakhurst and Green Street and so many more. You can get a sense of this in the new article about [Soma Stout 100 Million Lives](#), which NewsWeek is smart enough to cover, too.

Through this collective eye we can see life, tenacious and fiercely protective of its most tender edges.

And together we find the words to Speak Life.

I hope you like the book.

Gary



Rev. Larry Pray, the prophetic genius of Big Timber. He taught me that life has a language, which he is still speaking in his hardest of all days that life has a language, which he is still speaking in his hardest of all days.



Taize France, early on the morning when Jim Cochrane, TC, Masana, Shingai and I spoke life.

New LCLI Fellow



Matthew Bersagel Braley is Associate Professor in Philosophy at Viterbo University and former chair of the graduate program in Servant Leadership. He earned a Ph.D. in Religion with an emphasis on social ethics and human rights from Emory University. He is a past fellow at the Center for Health, Culture and Society at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health and a current fellow at the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership at Viterbo. He was fortunate in graduate school to be introduced to the work of the International Religious Health Assets Program (IRHAP), an international network of scholars and practitioners employing assets-based development approaches to understand the intersection of religion and health care systems globally. He continues to draw on the religious health assets framework (and the generosity of other IRHAPIans) for organizing his research and teaching, especially as it relates to sociological and theological understandings of *participation* in an imperfect world. He serves as part of the La Crosse community's Population Health Committee and assists in planning the community's annual

Health Summit. In addition, he served as executive director of STAR, a university-community partnership in Atlanta highlighting reconciliation practices in U.S. communities confronting legacies of racial violence. He is passionate about getting students out of the classroom and into the community to serve and learn – in his hometown, La Crosse, Wisconsin as well as in Africa and the African Diaspora – to explore the intersection of health, race, religion, and social justice.

News from LCLI Fellows

Evanca Kalula, Em. Prof. of Law at the University of Cape Town, writes that "I have some good tidings to share, I have just been appointed Chair of the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA). In ILO governance parlance, the CFA is the central edifice of the 'original ILO' and pinnacle of State Member accountability. I feel blessed but also petrified, it is a huge responsibility with contested political underpinnings in the usual UN way. It is definitely my 'last destination' in my professional pretensions that has come at the time right time. Above all, it is flexible and unencumbered. Apart from background preparatory work, it is several sessions in Geneva plus an occasional onsite visit. I am simply very excited!"