Training That Works!
Gamaliel is a faith-based, multi-ethnic, multi-racial grassroots organizing network located in 14 states and more than 40 communities whose mission is:

- To train ordinary people, primarily in low-income communities and communities of color, to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social, and economic decisions affecting their lives; and
- To build a diverse corps of grassroots leaders committed to transforming the systems and structures that perpetuate racial and economic inequity.

And leadership development is the key!

Gamaliel’s leadership development program is widely acknowledged to be among the best in the field of community organizing. That designation is the result of:

1) a relevant and rigorous training curriculum that presents a real, individualized challenge to participants to live into the greatness for which they were created; as well as
2) a group of trainers who are, first and foremost, practitioners with clarity about the world as it is and as it should be and their own path to power.

Gamaliel’s flagship training is the National Leadership Training (NLT). NLT is a 7-day, residential training—typically held three times annually—that helps individuals clarify their world view and the source of their commitment to social justice. The training equips them with the basic skills of organizing and the ability to link into Gamaliel’s priority strategic campaigns.

Cont’d on p. 2
Training that Works!, cont’d.
NLT participants can expect to cover the following topics during training:
- Institutional organizing
- Using the tools of community organizing to develop strong congregations/community-based institutions
- Methodology for building power/power organizations
- Tools to make and sustain relationships
- Self-interest, the public arena medium of exchange
- Power analysis: understanding the “laws of the jungle”
- Building support with money and media
- The elements of good meetings
- Structuring personal and organizational time
- Strategic planning
- Political and economic analysis

Participants include religious and lay leaders from Gamaliel affiliates, as well as leaders from community organizations, unions, and other community-based institutions from across the country.

Ntosake is a women’s leadership development program conducted by and for women. It is designed to present ideas and concepts for becoming effective and powerful leaders. The program is designed to train women to overcome the internal and external obstacles faced on the journey to becoming more powerful and effective leaders.

In addition to the specialized trainings and retreats for leaders of Gamaliel’s various tables, caucuses, and strategic campaigns, the Gamaliel Training Department is well-equipped to design specialty leadership development curricula and events for external partner organizations.

Gamaliel challenges training participants to be courageous, to enter into the “brave space” of our training rooms.

What Participants Say about Training

Key Learning Moments: At the end of the week the agitation I had with the trainers and my partners, really helped me a lot; I’ve been leaving A LOT of power on the table in the work I’ve been doing. The importance of being able to articulate my self-interest clearly and concisely. Calling out my oppressor, and my oppression—that gave me life!

I Was Surprised When: I was surprised by—but ultimately appreciated—that the overall emphasis was not on tools for organizing but on the trainees and their path to power. There’s a lot for me to unpack. I will definitely use this experience to grow.

Other Comments: I enjoyed the delivery, demonstration and the way the trainers were direct with their instructions and explanations. I liked how the trainers made us think deeply about every single aspect of the training. I am deeply grateful for this week’s experience and will never be the same—a good thing. The training has been a game changer for me and I feel renewed. This was the most challenging leadership training of my life.

Invitation to Brave Space
Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a “safe space”
We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.
In this space
We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,
We call each other to more truth and love
We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.
We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.
We will not be perfect.
This space will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be
But
It will be our brave space together, and
We will work on it side by side

Poem by Micky ScottBey Jones. To hear it read, go to: https://onbeing.org/poetry/invitation-to-brave-space/