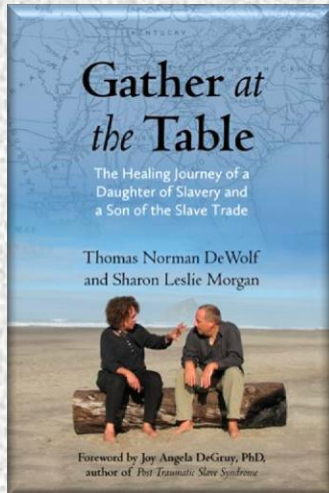


# The GATHER AT THE TABLE “Tool Kit”

Seven Ways to Use the Book to Enhance Personal & Community Healing Journeys



This Tool Kit offers ways for you to get involved with, and help expand the impact of, Coming to the Table through the book, *Gather at the Table* – which will be launched at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) on October 9, and followed with a national book tour.

## What your support for *Gather at the Table* will do for you and others:

- You will get personal value from reading Sharon Morgan and Tom DeWolf’s journey of “living” the Coming to the Table [model of healing](#). Their story will inspire your own journey of healing along with ideas for how you and others can pursue “history, connection, healing and action” together.
- *Gather at the Table* brings the CTTT approaches and ideas to life – reading this story of exploration and growth, discussing it, or hearing about it are ways to engage other people with CTTT or give them support and inspiration for the work they’re doing.
- The book and the book tour talks can bring together a new CTTT group and serve as a resource for activities for an existing group – your local CTTT group, your book club, a youth or student group, a church group – any kind of group you can imagine!
- Sales of the book will benefit Coming to the Table and training programs at EMU. As noted in the book’s Acknowledgments, “One-quarter of the royalties from *Gather at the Table* will be contributed to support the work of [CTTT](#), [STAR](#), and [SPI](#).”
- **AND, Direct purchase of *Gather at the Table* from Beacon Press benefits Coming to the Table!** You receive a 20% discount and free shipping. Coming to the Table receives a 10% donation from Beacon Press for each book purchased. Simply cut and paste the URL (<http://www.beacon.org/productdetails.cfm?sku=1441>), or [click on this link](#). Enter the promotional code **CTTT** at checkout.
  - Note: this offer is valid for *all* books you purchase through Beacon Press ([The King Legacy Series](#) and other [inspiring books](#)) – **all purchases will benefit CTTT**.



Photo © Lindi DeWolf

**Interested? Great! Here are seven sets of ideas for actions you can take:**

**Idea #1: First Steps**

**Idea #2: Spread the Word!**

**Idea #3: Bring the Book Tour to Your Town**

**Idea #4: Publicize a Local Book Talk, Dialogue or Workshop**

**Idea #5: Create “Buzz” for the Book and Coming to the Table**

**Idea #6: Organize a *Gather at the Table* Event**

**Idea #7: Make It Last**



Photo © Tom DeWolf

## Idea #1: FIRST STEPS

- Learn about *Gather at the Table* at the website: [www.gatheratthetable.net](http://www.gatheratthetable.net)
- “Like” the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GatherattheTable>.
- Share these two links with your family, friends, and social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and others).
- Read the [excerpt on the website](#), which will whet your appetite for more
- Pre-order the book:
  - Direct purchase of *Gather at the Table* from Beacon Press benefits Coming to the Table! You receive a 20% discount and free shipping. Coming to the Table receives a 10% donation from Beacon Press for each book purchased. Simply cut and paste the URL (<http://www.beacon.org/productdetails.cfm?sku=1441>), or [click on this link](#). Enter the promotional code **CTTT** at checkout.
- Read the book as soon as it is available! Lend it around or give copies to favorite people.

## Idea #2: SPREAD THE WORD!

- Talk about *Gather at the Table* with family and friends.
- Post your review on your Facebook page, along with a link to the website: [www.gatheratthetable.net](http://www.gatheratthetable.net)
- Review *Gather at the Table* on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [GoodReads](#) and other sites that readers follow.
- Blog about *Gather at the Table* or post the link on your own website.
- Forward the link for new *Gather at the Table* [blog posts](#) to your friends and family.



Photo © Jane Feldman

### **Idea #3: BRING THE BOOK TOUR TO YOUR TOWN!**

- Let Sharon Morgan or Tom DeWolf know about a place or a group that might be interested – send them the name of the most likely person to organize a book talk:
  - African American heritage, cultural or historic associations
  - Historical sites associated with civil rights, resistance to slavery, emancipation
  - Plantations or historical houses associated with slavery or the Underground Railroad
  - Youth groups
  - Colleges, Universities – Student Activities, Multi-Cultural, and other student groups
  - Faith communities, social justice or anti-racism groups
  - High Schools, Middle Schools
  - Genealogical societies
  - Libraries – book talk or discussion groups
- Share this info with event planners you know: Organizations can partner with Beacon Press to promote their work and earn income. [Click here](#) and then click on “Learn More Here”
- Invite Sharon and Tom to talk with your Coming to the Table group, as a separate activity or integrated with a larger group.
- Do you know an organization that might offer an honorarium or other form of underwriting for a talk, dialogue session, or workshop to help cover travel and other expenses? Let Tom and Sharon know!
- Can someone in your community offer Tom and Sharon hospitality during their stay – lodging, meals, or rides?
- If Tom and Sharon don’t visit your community in person, invite them to join your group via Skype or a conference call.

### **Idea #4: PUBLICIZE A LOCAL BOOK TALK, DIALOGUE OR WORKSHOP!**

- Once an event is scheduled near you, announce the event on your Facebook page – more than once!
- Post announcements on listserv and Facebook pages you belong to.
- Tweet about it – more than once!
- Post announcements on bulletin boards around your community – college activity boards, grocery stores and dry cleaners, coffee shops and community centers, churches, temples or mosques.
- Place announcements in the “Upcoming Events” or “Entertainment” sections of local newspapers, community magazines, and community websites.
- Suggest local news outlets where Beacon Press can send a press release.
- Forward announcements or press releases to any of the groups listed in #3 above as possible locations for a book talk, or, if they aren’t hosting a talk, request that they share the information with their members.

## **Idea #5: CREATE “BUZZ” FOR THE BOOK AND COMING TO THE TABLE**

- Post a review of the book on your website, blog, or Facebook page.
- Include a review of the book in the newsletter of a group or association you belong to.
- Introduce a local reporter (newspaper, magazine, TV) or talk show host (TV, radio, web broadcast) to *Gather at the Table*; invite them to interview Tom and Sharon and attend the book talk if they travel to your community. Even if Sharon and Tom don't travel to your town, you might inspire a story or book review by local media -- increasing awareness of Coming to the Table and your ability to start or grow a local CTTT group.

## **Idea #6: ORGANIZE A GATHER AT THE TABLE EVENT!**

- Take your Coming to the Table group, book club, social justice committee, historical society friends, or social action network to the book talk.
- Invite Sharon and Tom to speak to your group.
- Organize a dialogue experience based on the book – contact Sharon and Tom about how they can work with you to plan that event.
- Set up a workshop based on the book – contact Tom and Sharon for planning your event



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**Idea #7: MAKE IT LAST! This step is the KEY to growing the COMING TO THE TABLE community in your town and around the nation!**

- Plan follow-up events. Announce them at the conclusion of the book talk or other event.
- Ask for people's contact information (Sharon and Tom will pass around an email address sign-up sheet at their appearances) and send invitations to the follow-up event(s).
- Follow-up events can help build and strengthen a local Coming to the Table community.

Ideas for events include:

- Introduction to Coming to the Table, followed by story sharing
- Visits to historic sites, followed by sharing stories or dialogue
- Dialogue sessions prompted by questions in the *Gather at the Table* Study Guide
- Reading and discussion of the trauma cycles and trauma healing models
- Genealogy talks or workshops
- Dialogues about exploring family and community history
- Visits to, or clean-up day at, an abandoned or neglected cemetery
- Readings and discussions of articles and other books related to addressing the legacy of slavery, racism, white privilege

If you need resources for any of these activities, contact Coming to the Table, consult the Coming to the Table website, and download resources.

Email: [office@comingtothetable.org](mailto:office@comingtothetable.org)

Website: [www.comingtothetable.org](http://www.comingtothetable.org)

If you have additional ideas, share them with the Coming to the Table community as well as with Sharon and Tom (Email: [info@gatheratthetable.net](mailto:info@gatheratthetable.net)). The most up-to-date information about their touring schedule is available on the "Appearances" page of their website: <http://gatheratthetable.net/appearances/>.



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