

Elder Friendly Futures 2017

CONCURRENT SESSIONS III

Film Session and Facilitated Discussion: Speaking of Dying

Trudy James, Interfaith Chaplain and Film Producer

TRUDY JAMES

Trudy James is a graduate of the University of Kansas and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She's a long-time interfaith hospital chaplain who learned unforgettable lessons about death, dying and grief in the early days of the AIDS epidemic. She was honored at the Clinton White House for her work creating and supporting congregation-based AIDS CareTeams in Arkansas during the 1980s and 1990s. Twenty years with AIDS programming and five years as a chaplain at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance inspired her to create Heartwork, a program of spiritual retreats, grief and loss presentations, and end-of-life planning workshops. Her passion for helping people learn about available resources and envision a better way of dying drove her to produce a 30-minute documentary film, *Speaking of Dying*. This gentle and comforting film has been publicly screened in over 300 venues across the United States, helping diverse individuals and families learn and talk about the choices and resources needed to plan for their own good endings. Trudy has trained more than a dozen Heartwork facilitators, who currently conduct personal end-of-life workshops throughout the Puget Sound area and other states. Trudy offers presentations about grief and the vital issues surrounding death and dying, work that comes from her long experience and her compassionate heart. Learn more at speakingofdying.com and facebook.com/speakingofdying.