

Central District Tools for Ministry

“Vibrant Congregations and Vital Ministry in the 21st Century”

Plenary

Reimagine – What is God calling us to do now?

Interactive experience to help participants move from ideas to implementation. Focus on disciple-making processes and practices coupled with building community partnerships.

- 1. Practical Suggestions for Website Design and Development**, led by Rev. John Bletsch of VF: St. Matthew’s UMC
This session will offer practical guidance to help with the design and development of effective church websites. After discussing the qualities of effective church websites, the session will explore methods and tools for creating and maintaining them. Participants are invited to bring any questions that they have experienced in the development of their church's website.
- 2. Leading an Effective Prayer Ministry**, led by Rev. Andrea Haldeman of West Lawn UMC
How is it with your soul? This is a question that John Wesley often asked those around him and it is a question that has remained central to our Methodist understanding. Prayer is an essential part of the answer – in order for us to be pouring out, we need to be filled – both individually and corporately. If you are looking to begin or reinvigorate your prayer life and ministry – both individually and corporately, I invite you to come and gain practical tools that you might be able to put into practice such as Centering prayer, fasting and creating a rule for life. Join me to come away and be refreshed!
- 3. Book study, “Shift,”** led by Rev. Reggie Monte and Carolyn Pressley of Phila: Mt. Zion UMC
If your church is stuck, declining, aging or struggling then this workshop is for you. Shift can help jump start your church with a new, fresh outlook on ministry and the way we view the life of the church. Experience a fresh look at hospitality, worship, discipleship, service, and generosity.
- 4. Understanding Trends**, led by Rev. John Gudikunst of Reading: Holy Cross UMC
This workshop will present an overview of trends within current American Culture and the modern church, and will provide a framework for how to have meaningful conversations with both your congregation and your communities in languages that both can understand. This workshop will NOT provide a "quick fix", nor any "silver bullet" to increase your membership or increase your budgets. It may, however, give you the basic tools you need in a time when "Nones", "Dones" and "Never Weres" are the fastest growing segment of the American population. Be prepared to be challenged, and hear a word of hope!

5. **Emotional Intelligence**, led by David Piltz, Conference Coordinator, Youth and Young Adult Ministries
 What does it mean to be emotionally intelligent? What does it do? How does emotional intelligence connect to faith, to prayer, to understanding the depth of Jesus? In this workshop, we will explore emotional intelligence in experiential ways and through discussion commit to reshaping our thinking around communication, teamwork, conflict management, and faith by being more emotionally intelligent.

6. **Hymns in Worship: New Recipes for Old Chestnuts**, led by David Bryant of Phoenixville UMC
 David Bryant will discuss how to breathe new life into some old beloved hymns so they can be included in more contemporary worship. Hymnprovizations will also be discussed and performed.

7. **Tool Kit on Church Cemeteries**, presented by the Central District Board of Church Location & Building
 This Tool Kit workshop is designed for our Central District churches who have cemeteries or an interest in cemeteries. Our goal is to address questions and concerns that local church Trustees have concerning the care and maintenance of their Cemetery. Questions presented to us ahead of time would be most helpful. Please contact Rev. Mary Jane Kirby at pastor@unionhavertown.org. This workshop will take a look at typical church cemetery guidelines and consider issues related to the care of cemeteries in relationship to the denominational and state regulations. This will be a time to share information and to encourage good stewardship of a very significant ministry within our communities.

8. **Boomer Spirituality: A New Kind of Aging**, led by Rev. Coleen Painter of Elverson/Goodwill UMC
 From the time they were born, "Boomers" have taken their own road on how to live their lives, and this is having an impact on their spirituality as they grow older. This workshop will look at the unique experiences and values of people born between 1946 and 1964, and will explore how to meet their unique needs as well as use their special gifts and graces in today's church.

9. **Activate- Get moving!** Led by Rev. Jacqui King of UM Discipleship Ministries
 What do leaders need to help them to effectively engage in making disciples of Jesus Christ? This session will develop practical tools to help congregations engage in building community and resetting strategies for reaching new people. Reimagining Evangelism will be the primary discussion text: https://gbod-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy/kintera-files/about-gbod/LM_ReimaginingEvangelism.pdf

10. **Church Financial-Best Practices**, led by Rev. Dr. Jeff Raffauf of West Lawn UMC and Rev. Jacqui Hines of Bethel UMC
 The workshop will explore best practices in several areas, including: Personal Stewardship, Local Church Stewardship, and Connectional Ministry Stewardship. A Financial Leadership Academy began in 2015 under the direction of Jack Brooks and the Methodist Foundation. Eastern Pennsylvania Conference clergy and clergy from the Baltimore - Washington Conference meet for two years in order to glean

from master church financiers such as Cliff Christopher author of Not your Parent's Offering Plate and Ken Sloan of the Board of Discipleship's presentation on bequests.

11. **Committed to Christ and Living Generously**, led by Barbara Drake of Havertown: Union UMC and Rev. Rodney Brailsford of Norristown: Hawes Avenue UMC

What does Jesus expect of us as his disciples? He expects us to grow step by step in our relationship with him through prayer, Bible reading, worship attendance, witnessing, financial giving, and service. These are the six steps to a generous life, and they are the basis of a church stewardship program that presents giving as a lifelong journey in Christian discipleship rather than a way to raise money or fund a budget.

This stewardship program was developed by Bob Crossman, a United Methodist pastor from Arkansas who explained his program at the School of Congregational Development in Evanston, Illinois in August 2016 and inspired two EPC attendees to use his six week program. Abingdon Press has published a kit to use in the program including readings, a small group leader's guide, devotions, program guide with CD-ROM, and a DVD with worship videos.

Come see the kit and hear how the program was used in two churches with and without using the kit.

12. **Where's Racism**, led by Tamie Scalise of Mohnton: Calvary UMC

The children's book, *Where's Waldo*, challenges readers to spot Waldo, wearing the red-striped shirt and hat, in the midst of a busy scene. Similar to these books, racism can be difficult to spot. The language of internalized and systemic racism illustrates how racism has changed its look over time. Imagine if Waldo suddenly got a new wardrobe! In this workshop, explore current racial tensions and stretch your personal understanding of racism through interpersonal dialogue.

13. **Restorative Justice: Healing People and Communities**, led by Scott Johnson of

With its roots in the need to heal those affected by crime, Restorative Justice provides tools to minister wherever conflict may arise – from our day-to-day lives in families, schools, churches, work and communities to the most complex institutions, even nations. Crime or any conflict is a violation of people & relationships. Restorative Justice involves victims, offenders, and community in effort to put things right by focusing on the needs of the victim and the offender's responsibility for repairing harm. The EPAC Prison Ministry & Restorative Justice committee offers both insight and training to promote healing in our communities. This workshop will introduce participants to this vital component of prison ministry as well as outline training opportunities and resources available for local churches interested in healing people and restoring relationships in difficult circumstances.