

2024 Tools For Ministry (Northwest Region – North District)

Location: Asbury United Methodist Church in Allentown (1533 Springhouse Rd, Allentown, PA 18104)

Date : March 9th (Sat)

Registration fee : \$15

9:00 am - Opening / Praise, greeting, and prayer

9:30 am - First Session

11:00 am - Second Session

12:30 pm - Lunch

1. Safe Sanctuaries

Description: Safe Sanctuaries has become an important piece of our ministry in the United Methodist Church. Our goal is to create and maintain a safe environment for children, youth, older & vulnerable adults who attend our churches' events. We will help you write and maintain your local church policies and give insight into the resources available to you through EPA. This training will give a brief overview of our newest resolutions, approved at the 2023 Annual Conference. There will be ample time for questions and answers, as well as any feedback.

Facilitator: The Rev. Jacqueline D. Daniszewski, Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator, will be the facilitator for these sessions. Jackie worked 30 years for the Reading Police Department in the Records Office, managing the office and providing service to law enforcement officers and county courts and state correctional institutions. Her organizational skills and experience following legal issues is an asset to the position she now holds with EPA.

2. William Penn's "Holy Experiment"—Did it work as he intended?

Description: How well do you know the history of PA? This workshop will examine the horrific Conestoga Massacre and the forced assimilation of children at the Carlisle Indian School to show how William Penn's friendly relationship with the Lenape gave way to hostility and brutal attempts to solve the "Indian problem." In a time when efforts are being made to erase the brutal history of colonization in one state after another, it is crucial for us to remember that learning our history is one step in the journey toward healing and wholeness with our Native American brothers and sisters. By understanding the intergenerational impact of this brutal history on Native Americans, one can more effectively advocate for justice and fairness in issues facing Native Americans today.

Facilitator: Mike Shifflet is a member of the Eastern PA Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CoNAM). His interest in Native American issues derives from a mission trip he and his daughter took to the Blackfeet United Methodist Parish in Browning, Montana, and from hosting Pastor Calvin Hill and his wife in their home. These experiences led him and his wife to join CoNAM. He attends Oregon Community United Methodist Church in Manheim Township, PA.

3. Launching and Growing Family Ministry in your church.

Description: Training will involve discussing how to prepare your congregation to welcome, support, and include young families, how to open your doors for families with little ones, and how to include all ages into the whole church, not just in a separate room down the hall. We will address how to invite families if your church has none, how to support if you have a few, or how to move to the next level of inclusion if your church has many.

Facilitator: Marleah Doyle has worked in Family Behavioral Health for 25+ years prior to becoming a full-time pastor. She has a master's degree from Lehigh University in Education and has served as the Pastor of Family Ministries at Bethany Church for 7+ years. She is passionate about including young families into every fabric of the church community, making sure children feel completely welcomed and a part of the church family.

4. METHODIST – A Singing People

Description: This course provides an overview of our Methodist church's proud tradition and practice in church music. Topics of this course are as follows. "Brief History of Christian Hymns (Hymnology)," "Wesleyan Hymns," and "How to Improve Our Hymn-Singing." And, of course, there will be a sing-along during the course. If you are a music lover (who isn't?), you will enjoy this course and learn some good insights regarding music ministry in your church.

Facilitator: Hyoik Kim is an Elder in Full-Connection in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. He has devoted his life to God in true worship and desire to be used to motivate, inspire, and arouse the Body of Christ to worship God in Spirit and in truth. He earned a Master of Music in Music Ministry from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Then, he had the call to pastoral ministry and received his Master of Divinity from Drew Theological Seminary. In 2008, the United Methodist Church recognized his expertise and passion in church music so that he could be selected as a member of U. M. Hymnal Revision Committee. Currently, he serves Christ First UMC in Hasbrouck Heights, NJ.

5. One Board Model

Description: Are you finding it more difficult to fill your leadership positions? Your folks are saying too many meetings, folks just don't want to commit any more? Maybe your pool of potential leaders is growing smaller because of falling membership. It may be time to be thinking of a new administrative structure known as the One Board Model. This model moves churches from four administrative committees (Trustees, Finance, Staff-Parish Relations and Church Council) to one Leadership Board encapsulating all the responsibilities and authority of the previous four separate administrative committees. This alternative structure is based on Para 247.e.2 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. This workshop is designed to discuss how to implement this new administrative structure and to answer and questions you might have as your plan this move.

Facilitator: Dave Goss is a retired Elder in the United Methodist Church and currently serving at East Bangor United Methodist Community Church. He received his M.Div. from Drew Theological School and has done further work at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. During his vocational ministry he has served Richmond UMC and First UMC in Easton. He has also served in extension ministry at Allentown Center City Ministries, Methodist Home for Children, and Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center.

Pastor Felker is a retired elder currently serving part-time at the Salem United Methodist Church in Danielsville, PA. He previously served at the Senior Pastor at the Effort United Methodist for approximately 14 years and served the Portland United Methodist Church while attending Moravian Theological Seminary. Prior to entering the ministry, Pastor Felker was employed at East Stroudsburg University as both the Director of Human Resources/Labor Relations and as the Executive Assistant/Chief of Staff to the President. He retired from the University in 1998 having worked there for approximately 24 years. His service to the Conference includes being a current member of the CCFA, Chair of the North District Superintendency Committee and was previously the Chairperson of the Conference Human Resource Committee.

6. Christian Spiritual Practices

Description: How can we prepare ourselves to better hear God? For thousands of years, Christian-based Spiritual Practices have helped faithful Christians do just that. Today, these spiritual practices can teach us to think more clearly and to alleviate our stress, equipping and enabling us as we continue our transformation into being more faithful followers of Jesus Christ. We will explore Christian contemplation, meditation, mindfulness and mysticism, and about the deep roots these spiritual practices have in our Christian faith. My hope is that as we gain a better understanding, we may be able to incorporate some of these methods into our spiritual journey.

Facilitator: Rev. Peter Jamieson is a retired Elder from the Greater NJ Annual Conference, serving as Pastor of Richmond UMC in the North District of Eastern PA. Peter has taken a number of courses taught by faculty from Garrett Theological School in Ohio, dealing with spiritual formation, one of which awarded him a certificate in running spiritual retreats and spiritual groups. Peter has been involved in spiritual practices and spiritual retreats in many different roles. Peter was active in the Garden State Walk to Emmaus community as a team member on numerous walks and served on the Board of Directors for 6 years before moving to Northern New Jersey. Peter attended the Academy for Spiritual Formation #39, a two-year spiritual formation retreat where participants live in community for a total of 40 days. Peter is helping to put together a one-week spiritual retreat in the Northeast at the Tuscarora Inn and Conference Center in Mt. Bethel, PA in September of 2024. Peter has lead one-day retreats at the GNJ Dietz camp site in Sussex County, NJ, and has lead a 3-day retreat for the Order of St Luke of NJ.

7. "So you want to lead a Bible Study?!"

Description: This session aims to offer a dialogue and tools to help you create a meaningful study of the Bible for a Sunday School class, small group, or other settings. We will explore strategies and what to consider as you structure your study. In addition, we will investigate how questions we ask biblical texts impact the answers we receive. Finally, we will look at how to draw out theological meaning from the scripture and apply these to contemporary contexts.

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Deborah Appler, an elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, is Professor of Hebrew Bible at Moravian Theological Seminary where she has taught since 1999. She is a Board of Global Ministry Earth Keeper, and a member of the United Methodist and Moravian Full Communion Committee.

Deborah's academic interests center on the intersection of religion, gender, food justice and sexuality in the Hebrew Bible and how these texts and their interpretations impact faith communities in both positive and negative ways. Her passionate interest in global interpretations of the Bible have led to collaborative teaching and research at Teofilo Kisanji University in Mbeya, Tanzania and her many trips to Israel where she participated in archaeological excavations with her students and community. Presently she and Rev. Dr. Terry Smith are co-writing a volume on Ezra-Nehemiah for the Wisdom Commentary Series, the first Feminist and Intersectional Commentary Series.

Dr. Appler holds a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Vanderbilt University and her M.Div. at Perkins School of Theology. She served two churches in the Baltimore-Washington Conference (her home conference): Good Shepherd, Waldorf (1987-1990) and Cowenton, White Marsh (1990-1993).

8. General Conference 2024. Overview

Description: The session will provide Information regarding the process and organization of General and Jurisdictional Conference 2020-2024, legislation coming to the general conference for action, and anticipated outcomes that could affect the local church.

Facilitator: Judy Ehninger, Co chair of the Delegation General and jurisdictional Conference and Kristine Adams, Delegate to Jurisdictional

9. Embark on a Transformative Journey with Pathways: Navigating Your Congregation Towards Health and Fruitfulness.

Description: Uncover the path to a thriving future for your congregation through the Pathways to Congregational Development—a process designed to unveil God's calling and purpose for your community. Healthy congregations that are connected and engaged missionally with the people in the community are bearers of God's love as experienced through the life of Jesus Christ.

Pathways guides you on this process, steering your congregation towards sustainability, vitality, and cultural competence. Join us as we explore the crucial steps that lead to a hope-filled future. It's time to discover the potential within your congregation and embrace the path to lasting impact. This workshop will explore all six paths, Vitality, Sustainability, Community Engagement, Next Generation and Conflict Resolution.

Facilitator: Rev Gina Yeske serves as the EPA/GNJ Pathways Champion, bringing her fervent dedication to congregational development. Her love for the church extends to embracing its diverse stories. Gina values the chance to connect and engage in ministry with pastors and congregations throughout the EPA region, eagerly anticipating the ongoing collaboration that lies ahead.

10. How to Start a Conversation on Race

Description: Too often churches either refuse to have a conversation on race because they are afraid of what might happen or they simply do not know where to start. This course is designed to begin the conversation with little risk.

Facilitator : Rev. David W. Brown, retired elder, Co-Convener of the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team
Mr. Mert Shane, CLM, assigned to Canadensis UMC as pastor and Co-Convener of the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team